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Oil Prices

Oil prices rose Monday on a threat of new sanctions against Iran.

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Detention

Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to be kept in detention until late 2009.

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Verisimilitude

Heath Ledger died at an age when many gifted actors first reach lift-off.

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At least 3 dead in Guam bomber crash. **PAGE 2**

Three apply for PSS Commissioner post. **PAGE 3**

1.6K signatures back transparency petition

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Approximately 1,600 additional signatures were submitted to the Attorney General's Office late Monday afternoon in support of a petition for a more transparent Legislature.

Proponents of the petition need at least 512 valid signatures, in addition to the 1,900 previously submitted and verified, to get the initiative on the ballot in the November election. The initiative pro-

See 1.6K on Page 4

Mike Pai named to OPA chief post

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday announced the appointment of Michael Pai to serve as the new CNMI public auditor.

Pai, a certified public accountant for more than 20 years, replaces Michael Sablan, who earlier resigned from his post to work in the private sector.

"I have very high confidence in Mike [Pai]'s high level of independence and integrity for this position," said Fitial.

See MIKE on Page 4

Manpower lack threatens CPA compliance with federal regs

The Commonwealth Ports Authority says it needs to hire new employees to meet federal requirements, but a lack of funds is preventing it from doing so.

Acting CPA executive director Lee Cabrera, in a report to the Fitial administration and the Legislature, said

See MANPOWER on Page 4

Economic council eyes air service woes

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

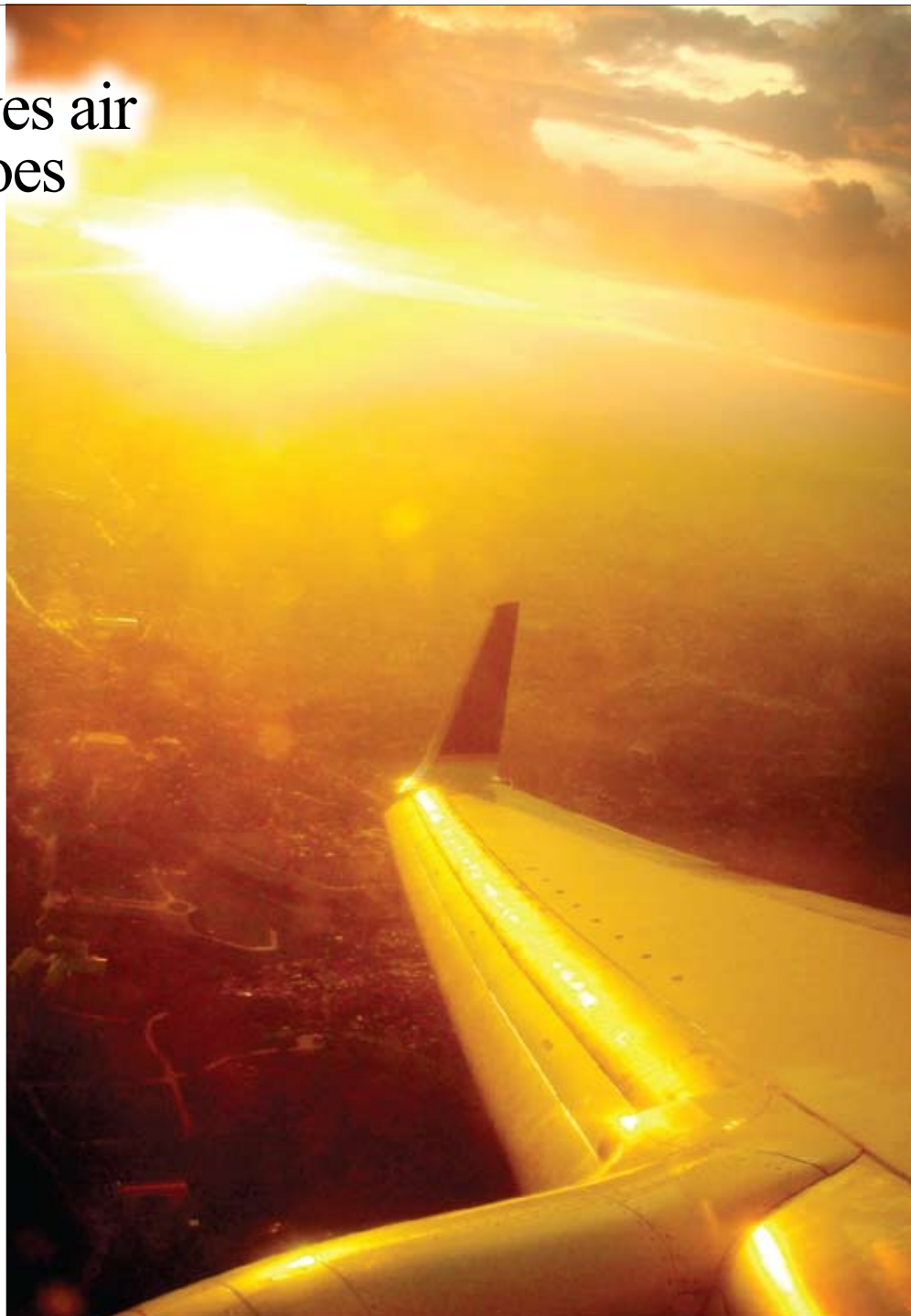
Airline service in the Commonwealth was a key issue Tuesday in a closed-door conference of a key economic council tasked with advising Gov. Benigno Fitial, with one key voice calling for incentives to entice carriers to revive Continental's now cancelled Saipan-to-Manila route.

The Strategic Economic Development Council heard a briefing during the conference by Northwest Airlines executive Jeffery Bernier who detailed the severe obstacles—such as skyrocketing fuel prices—the airline is now facing, attendees said, noting that Bernier and tourism sector officials project weak demand for air tickets to Saipan and Guam over the remainder of the summer.

See ECONOMIC on Page 4

A Continental Micronesia aircraft prepares for landing as the sun sets at the Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport during one of its final flights from Saipan.

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Local

At least 3 dead in Guam bomber crash

Search continues for three other crew members

HAGATNA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard yesterday continued to lead a search for surviving crew members of a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber that crashed Monday 25 miles northwest of Apra Harbor, Guam.

Coast Guard Sector Guam small boats recovered the remains of two crew members Monday, but a massive joint-agency search continues. An Associated Press story reports that at least three airmen were confirmed dead. The ocean search is for the remaining three crew members.

Three vessels including a destroyer, three helicopters, two F-15 fighter jets and a Navy P-3 Orion aircraft based in Japan were involved in the search, which covered roughly 3,000 square miles of the Pacific, said Coast Guard spokesman Lt. John Titchen.

"We've basically saturated that area," said Titchen, who called search conditions "ideal,"



with light winds, calm seas and good visibility.

Crews with two Navy HH-60 Jayhawks and a crew aboard a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency helicopter also joined Guam Fire Department and Guam Police Department search crews Monday and yesterday morning.

The unarmed B-52 bomber was en route from Guam's Andersen Air Force Base to

conduct a flyover in a parade on another part of the island when it crashed around 9:45 a.m. Monday about 30 miles northwest of Apra Harbor, the Air Force said.

The Liberation Day parade celebrates the day the U.S. military arrived on Guam to retake control of the island from Japan.

The Air Force said a board of officers will investigate

the accident.

The three crew members were wearing their life vests when their bodies were recovered.

"This is a challenging operation when we lose people we work with on a day-to-day basis, so we're doing the best that we can to cover that area as quickly as we can," Titchen said.

The Coast Guard's command center near Apra Harbor reports that search crews have covered nearly 3,000 square miles—essentially saturating an area that covers the B-52's intended flight path into Andersen Air Force Base from the moment the plane's communications were lost with the air traffic control tower there.

"We have had terrific cooperation with our Department of Defense and Guam territorial government partners," said Lt. Elizabeth Buendia, supervisor of the Coast Guard's search and rescue command center near Apra Harbor.



A 2004 file photo shows a B-52 bomber on the tarmac of the Barksdale AFB in Bossier City, La.

"Our hearts go out to the families of the victims recovered to this point, but we have an active search and rescue case going for the other crew members aboard the B-52."

The Coast Guard's 110-foot patrol boat *Assateague* was on scene within 45 minutes of the crash. Also on scene is the 225-foot buoy tender *Kukui*, home ported in Honolulu.

The accident is the second for the Air Force this year on Guam, a U.S. territory 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

In February, a B-2 crashed at Andersen shortly after takeoff in the first-ever crash of a stealth bomber. Both pilots ejected safely. The military estimated the cost of the loss of the aircraft at \$1.4 billion.

The plane that crashed Monday was based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana and deployed to Guam as part of the Department of Defense's continuous bomber presence mission in the Pacific. The Air Force has been rotating B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers through Guam since 2004 to boost the U.S. security presence in the Asia-Pacific region while other U.S. forces in

the area have been sent to the Middle East.

Master Sgt. Cindy Dorfner, a spokeswoman for the Air Combat Command in Langley Air Force Base, Va., said the last crash involving a B-52 was on June 24, 1994 in Spokane, Wash. The bomber was practicing touch-and-go landings before an air show at Fairchild Air Force Base when it plunged to the ground and exploded, killing all four on board.

The Air Force has 93 B-52 bombers remaining in its fleet.

The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can refuel in midair. Since the 159-foot-long bomber was first placed into service in 1955, it has been used for a wide range of missions from attacks to ocean surveillance.

According to the Air Force's Web site, the B-52 Stratofortress has been the backbone of the manned strategic bomber force for the United States for more than four decades. It is capable of dropping or launching the widest array of weapons in the U.S. inventory, including cluster bombs and precision guided missiles. (With AP)

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Representative Joseph C. Reyes

PSS to pay student meal vendors more

By **KRISTI EATON**
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's nine vendors will soon be receiving more money from PSS for each student meal prepared.

PSS will now pay the vendors an additional 10 cents per meal. The vendors will receive \$1.70 for each breakfast and \$2.85 for each lunch, said PSS Acting Commissioner Craig Garrison. Vendors on Rota and Tinian will receive an additional 15 to 20 cents per meal.

"I'm sure the vendors are happy to receive that," Garrison said.

The cost to students—50 cents for breakfast and 75 cents for lunch will remain the same, Garrison said.

"In this case the children are protected because the cost is borne by the public education system," he added.

The vendors needed more money to offset rising fuel and energy costs for preparation and transportation.

Garrison said he hopes the additional funds will help the vendors. "Serving 3,000 meals, that's a chunk of change," he said.

But Emel Rubio of Barny's Pizza, which prepares 1,400 lunches daily, said he thinks the vendors are still being short-changed.

Vendors receive the same amount of money for elementary meals and high school meals, yet the portion sizes in the high schools are larger, he said.

"We want a price difference," he said.

Rubio also said he thinks the increase was overdue. "It should have been given to us for the last two years," he added.

But, he said, the increase is better than nothing. "It will help, but not a lot," he said.

Three apply for vacant PSS Commissioner post

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A late applicant brought the total number of people applying for the position of Public School System Commissioner to three.

Debra Ellen turned in her application Friday afternoon, the deadline for submitting the paperwork, said acting PSS Commissioner Craig Garrison.

Ellen joins Ambrose M. Bennett, a former CNMI Board of Education teacher representative, and Rita Sablan, PSS associate commissioner for instruction, in

vying for the position. Sablan was an earlier applicant for the commissioner position in 2006.

Human Resources will now start checking the applications to make sure they are complete, before they go to the board for review, Garrison said. The board will then set a date to conduct interviews.

BOE chair Lucia Linda Blanco-Maratita said the board hopes to have a replacement by Aug. 1.

Though the position was reportedly advertised in Hawaii and the U.S. mainland, three off-island applications received

were incomplete. It was not immediately known whether the incomplete applications will still be considered, given the scarcity of applicants.

The Commissioner of Education reports to the Board of Education and is in charge of

all operations for the Public School System.

The position of Commissioner requires a master's degree in an education field and at least five years experience teaching or in education administration. Candidates are also required

to demonstrate knowledge of school systems, proficiency in English, and be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in CNMI, according to the job vacancy announcement.

The salary for the full-time position is \$60,000 to \$80,000 with benefits.

In June, the Board of Education asked PSS Commissioner Dr. Da-

vid Borja to resign or be fired.

Sablan sued three BOE officials in 2006 after she lost the position of Commissioner to Borja.

Bennett expressed confidence in his ability to perform the duties of the Commissioner. "I think I should be one of the best choices," Bennett said. "I know that I'm a winner." (with *Caroline Lochabay*)

Deportation case dropped after woman gets IR status

The Superior Court dismissed yesterday a deportation case filed last year against a Filipino woman after discovering that she had obtained an Immediate Relative entry permit.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman cited "good cause shown" as the reason for the dismissal.

In petition, filed in November 2007, the Attorney General's Office and Immigration asked Dolores B. De Guzman to explain to the court why she should not be deported for remaining in the CNMI for six years and five months past the expiration of her papers.

Wiseman ordered the dismissal after the petitioners, through assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell, moved to drop the petition.

Busenkell said De Guzman has complied with all terms and conditions of the settlement agreement, which was approved by the court last May.

The assistant AG said De Guzman has normalized her immigration status and was issued

a 706D IR entry permit, which expires on May 22, 2009.

Court records show that in November 2007, Immigration investigator Abram C. Togawa filed the petition after finding that De Guzman's long-term tourist entry permit had expired on June 19, 2001.

On April 24, 2008, the petitioners, through then-counsel assistant attorney general Kevin Lynch, and De Guzman entered a settlement agreement. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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PSS asks govt for more than \$64 million

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System submitted a 2008-2009 budget request of more than \$64 million to the CNMI government Tuesday.

The proposed budget is about \$10 million more than what PSS asked for the 2007-2008 school year, said acting PSS Commissioner Craig Garrison. The additional money is needed for fuel and utility increases, crew retirement and liabilities. PSS received \$35 million for the 20 schools in the system last year.

Garrison said he is doubtful PSS will receive the full amount this year.

"I am hopeful, but considering the history of PSS being under-funded for all of history, it probably won't happen," he said. "More than likely they'll give us considerably less."

Realistically, Garrison said, he would be happy to receive anything above \$50 million.

Garrison said he understands that the government has very little money to divide among many departments. "It's

hard to give a large chunk to one entity," he added.

PSS is asking for more than \$33 million for personnel and \$22 million for "all others," Garrison said. Additional funds are needed for accrued liability. A percentage of the budget

will also be given to the Office of the Public Auditor.

Garrison said he hopes government officials pass the CNMI budget as soon as possible. PSS needs the allotted amount by Oct. 1, the start of the fiscal year.

Since 1998, the Commonwealth government has only passed two budgets. When no appropriation is passed, the previous year's budget is used.

"If they don't pass a budget then we have serious issues," Garrison said. "If we get another \$35 million, I don't

know what's going to happen."

It's imperative government officials remember the importance of the public school system on CNMI, he said.

"PSS is the heart of the islands," he added. "It's the life blood. The islands wouldn't survive without it."

Tudela: Tie farming to tourism

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

To bolster the Commonwealth's agriculture sector, local leaders should consider linking it with the tourism industry in the future, according to a July 3 letter sent to CNMI government officials by Antonia Tudela, chairwoman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

In the letter, addressed to Department of Natural Resources Sec. Ignacio Dela Cruz and Ross Manglona, director of Northern Marianas Colleges' Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, Tudela urges them

to consider the recommendations of economic developers on "how agriculture should be packaged and promoted as a tourism supported industry."

For example, Tudela notes that farmers could focus on growing foods that are in high demand among tourists such as pineapple, sugar cane and star fruit and should be encouraged to market products in resorts, restaurants and at high profile events like the annual Flame Tree Festival.

"[I]ncreasing farm yield should not just be aimed to reduce the local de-

pendency on imported food items as much as it should be tied in to the tourism industry," the letter says.

In addition, Tudela says wholesale distribution of local produce and fish could also be marketed among resorts and restaurants via a government cooperative. The Commonwealth Development Authority and federal agencies could provide the initial funding needed to start such a venture.

Before the local agriculture sector can improve, however, Tudela adds that updated data



Tudela

is needed to gauge its production capacity. Meanwhile, the pending military build-up on Guam, Tudela notes, will provide a much larger opportunity for growth.

"The ripple effect will extend out to the CNMI and the rest of Micronesia," Tudela says. "It is important for this reason that we should all be prepared for an overnight commercialization of the local agricultural industry to supply the need for fresh organic farm produce."

Moreover, Tudela notes that farmers need to organize in order to market themselves effectively in the future. To aide that effort, the council is holding stakeholder meetings to determine a course of action, the letter concludes.

MANPOWER

From Page 1

that four airport firefighters and one ports police officer had left for military deployment last week. The departure of the five servicemen, as well as the recent resignation of several other staff members, have left the ports authority with a staff shortage that could

jeopardize CPA's operations and ability to receive federal funding.

"Personnel are needed with CPA ports police and ARFF [aircraft rescue and firefighting] to ensure compliance with the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Aviation Administration safety requirements," Cabrera said.

"However," he added, "funding remains a significant challenge. CPA

must raise the revenue to pay for this critical staff."

Cabrera said consultations concerning CPA's personnel needs are ongoing with the Fitial administration and Bank of Guam, which serves as trustee for CPA's airport revenue bond.

"Replacement hiring is currently being considered with a view on the financial impacts of such hiring," he said.

CPA has been plagued by resignations in the past year and a half. In May 2007, Clyde Norita resigned as executive director. Airport fire chief Stanley Torres took over Norita's post for eight months before quitting in January 2008.

Cabrera, who officially heads the seaport division, was named to serve as acting executive director. He also is poised to go on early retirement at the

end of this month.

The ports authority has been without a comptroller since the resignation of George Palican in February 2007. Other key positions that are currently vacant are deputy director, airport manager, and seaport manager. The latest to leave is CPA's staff engineer; his resignation went into effect last Saturday, July 19, 2008. (Agnes E. Donato)

ECONOMIC

From Page 1

The talks also addressed the consequences of the Continental cancellation and the early benefits local businesses have seen after Northwest's recent boost in flights traveling to Saipan from Tokyo.

Council co-chair Bob Jones said the added tourists brought to Saipan by the new Narita flights, a nighttime service that began earlier this month, appear to have already given some businesses a much needed boost. Yet a factor "off-

setting" these benefits is the fallout over the loss of the Continental flights, which stopped last week.

"Tourism is the only thing the islands have left with the garment industry gone," Jones said. "We might be able to quantify the benefits of the flights by the end of the year if we don't lose any more flights."

In addition to the economic impacts of Continental's cancellation of the Saipan-to-Manila route, a move the airline has said previously was due to fuel costs and diminished ticket sales, is the fallout it will have for medical patients in the Commonwealth, Jones said. To

compensate for this loss, the Fitial administration, he added, has begun some early talks with other airlines in a bid to restart the service but those have yet to yield any final agreements.

Manila was one of the primary destinations for patients in need of advanced medical care prior to the Continental cancellation, Jones noted, and now that the direct service has ceased, local health officials have scrambled to arrange referral agreements with hospitals in Japan. Health officials, however, have yet to resolve issues critical for those agreements to work, such as whether those hospitals can accept U.S. health insur-

ance. Meanwhile, foreigners in the Commonwealth are often barred from traveling to Guam for medical treatment due to visa restrictions.

Consequently, a key SEDC member urged the council to consider incentives to entice other airlines to begin direct service between Saipan and Manila. Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), formerly the lieutenant governor and a prospective gubernatorial candidate, reported that he suggested the council's air services committee should open talks with airlines "to see what is possible, what it would take" to get the Manila-bound flights back.

The Commonwealth once offered

a waiver of landing fees to airlines as an incentive, Benavente noted in an interview, but pulled that measure due to financial problems with the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Returning that incentive or some similar measure, he said, could a way to get "an airline to fly the Manila to Saipan route again."

Such incentives, he added, are critical because options like transporting patients to Manila via Japan or Korea requires a lengthy layover and is too expensive to be cost effective.

"In the end, the medical referral program could end up footing the bill," he said.

MIKE

From Page 1

"Mike has an immaculate background and I expect him to bring more accountability and internal cost controls to our government."

Pai accepted the governor's offer on Tuesday. "I consider it an honor. Thank you for the offer. I am happy to accept," he was quoted as saying in a media re-

lease issued by the Governor's Office yesterday.

Sablan, who led the Office of the Public Auditor for seven and a half years, said he was pleased with the governor's choice for his replacement.

"I have known Mike [Pai] professionally and personally since I returned to the CNMI in 1989. We have served on various civic groups and had occasion to work on various finance-related matters over the last 20 years. He is

a professional and he is very well respected. I think we will do well with him as public auditor," Sablan said in an interview.

Pai attended the University of Hawaii, where he completed degrees in engineering and business administration. He has spent his entire career to date in the private business sector and has never previously served in the public sector.

Before putting up his own account-

ing firm in 1986, Pai worked for a number of corporations and an accounting firm, including the Hawaiian Telephone Company, Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., and Ernst & Young.

He is currently involved in several businesses, including Chong's Corporation and Sunset Cruise Inc. on Saipan, Plexus International in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Universal Air Supply Inc. on Guam.

Active in community life, Pai is a member of the CNMI Board of Accountancy, the NMI Judiciary Historical Society, and the Pet Assistance & Welfare Services group. Pai was also a president and a board member of the Rotary Club of Saipan, and was a board member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Pai will serve in an acting capacity until confirmed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

1.6K

From Page 1

poses to amend the law to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

"Hopefully, that [1,600 signatures] is a good enough margin of error for at least 512 signatures to be valid," said Rep. Tina Sablan, the main proponent of the petition, which she started as a private citizen last year.

Even if the signatures are found sufficient, proponents of the proposal still face the unresolved legal question of whether or not the initiative can be placed on the ballot this year.

The Constitution requires that initiatives to amend the Constitution or a general law be placed on the ballot at a regular general election. The Attorney General's Office has issued an opinion that the current legal definition of a "regular general election" only includes elections held in odd-

numbered years on the first Saturday of November.

For initiatives to be voted on this election, the Legislature needs to change the definition of "regular general election" or call a concurrent special election, Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka has said.

Sablan said her group is considering an alternative action. "We would appeal to the Election Commission to consider other legal perspectives that hold that the federal law that man-

dates the delegate election this year changed everything—the Covenant, the Constitution, and CNMI election laws, with or without action from the local legislature explicitly amending the definition of 'regular general election,'" she said.

"But of course none of this would be an issue if the delegate bill pending in the [CNMI] Senate right now is signed into law, because that acknowledges the election law changes that were made when US Public Law 110-229

was enacted," she added.

The federal law granted the Northern Marianas a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. The first ever delegate will be elected on Nov. 4, 2008.

While the Open Government Act applies to all other government agencies, the Legislature passed a law in 1994 to exempt itself from the act's provisions. The petition calls for a law re-applying the government transparency law to the Legislature.

All inmates finally moved to new prison

DOC now faced with severe manpower shortage

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Corrections has finally and successfully moved all inmates to the state-of-the-art prison in Susupe. DOC now faces a big problem—manpower shortage.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, DOC Commissioner Lino S. Tenorio said they were able to transfer all 131 inmates to the new prison on July 10.

Tenorio said their main problem now is the lack of manpower. Six Corrections officers recently resigned and two other members of the U.S. Army Reserve were deployed to Iraq and for training in Guam.

He said the transfer to the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building took 10 to 12 hours and required 40 Corrections officers.

All 131 inmates—civil detainees, the criminally charged and DUI (driving while under the influence of alcohol) offenders—were moved to the new building.

"I feel very relieved that we were able to make the transition very smoothly. I was some-

what skeptical at first that things would work out fine. I was actually thinking of the worst case scenario that might happen when it comes to safety and security," Tenorio said.

The commissioner was worried that any of the prisoners might create problems by refusing to adhere to instructions.

He also feared that inmates' family members would disrupt the process.

"The good thing about it is that we tried to keep it as quiet as possible. Nobody actually knew when the movement was going to happen except for myself and the director," Tenorio said.

The commissioner said that DOC currently employs 85 to 87 Corrections officers. To effectively run the department, 25 more officers are required, he added.

With the shortage, current DOC officers are forced to render overtime.

"Because of the way we are running this facility, we need at least to have a total of 19 officers on a shift schedule," Tenorio said.

This is because "in this new facility we have some specialized units. That's why we need

to have officers to be detailed to those kind of special programs," he said.

DOC currently has three shifts. There are a total of 22 officers on a shift, which makes for a total of 66 officers. Ten more officers are currently assigned to the administration office to handle other duties and responsibilities.

"On top of that we need to assign officers to do the special escorts, to court run, doing the hospital run, and some special projects that are deemed necessary by the Governor's Office," he added.

The new prison officially opened in February. Construction on the 100,000 square-foot lot in Susupe started in 2002. The first target opening date was in 2006. Contractual issues delayed the opening.

During the opening ceremony, DOC officials said the inmates and detainees will be transferred from the old detention center to the new building "in the coming weeks."

The target transfer date to the new facility was later set for the end of April 2008. Frequent power outages broke five of the building's nine air-

conditioning compressors.

A consent decree forged by the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Justice mandated the construction of the new building following DOJ's discovery of the old building's deplorable conditions.

The new building is capable

of housing 396 inmates and detainees.

Tenorio had previously described DOC as a "City within a City" due to its possession of a private water supply through its salt water wells. The facility produces potable water via reverse osmosis.

The facility is equipped with an emergency back-up genera-

tor along with work stations for medical and mental health personnel and counselors, as well as a kitchen.

The facility also contains one and a half basketball courts, as well as a small gym with bodybuilding and fitness equipment.

DOC estimates that the project amounted to \$20.9 million.



PASEO PERFORMERS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Maika'i group entertain the crowd during their street performance at the Paseo De Marianas in Garapan Friday afternoon. PDM Promoters, Inc. hosted the event.

Pedestrian suffers broken bones in CK crash

A man was injured when a car traveling along Beach Road hit him near the Bank of Saipan in Chalan Kanoa Saturday night.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the preliminary information she gathered indicated that the victim was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for broken bones.

Ogumoro said the driver is a local resident.

Ogumoro said a white sedan was traveling south on the outer lane when it struck the victim.

The accident was reported to DPS at 9:22pm.

The spokesperson said she had no information whether the driver was arrested or whether alcohol was a factor

in the crash.

Ogumoro said no information was also available whether the victim was walking on the road or crossing the highway.

Last Sunday, Ogumoro said DPS would release details about the crash by Monday.

As of yesterday, DPS had yet to release the complete report to the media. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Attorney for Petitioner
SHERWIN B. BAMBIA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SHERWIN BECINA BAMBIA,
Plaintiff,

v.
JENNIFER SANTOS BAMBIA,
Respondent.

) FCD-DI
) Civil Action
) No. 08-0331
)
) AMENDED ORDER TO
) APPEAR OR PLEAD
) (7 CMC § 1301)

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
JENNIFER SANTOS BAMBIA
PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Complaint by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order to Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED, July 21, 2008.

KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge



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BABY WELLNESS KIT

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Baby Wellness Kit which includes disposable diapers, baby soap, shampoo, toys and blankets, are displayed while Curves owner Karen Benson talks during the Rotary Club of Saipan regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

Lawmakers to urge help for workers' children

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

House lawmakers Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) and Edward Salas (R-Saipan) are poised to urge the CNMI Department of Labor to provide special help for children with disabilities whose parents are foreign workers facing repatriation.

In a pending letter to Labor, Sablan and Salas plan to ask the department to address a host of regulatory issues such as due process concerns and the consistency of its enforcement efforts. One key topic among the many to be detailed in the letter, Sablan said in an interview Monday, will be Labor's approach to dealing with foreign workers whose children—often U.S. citizens—have disabilities requiring special care they might not be able to get in their home nations should their parents be sent back.

"These parents haven't found new jobs and they're worried about being sent home and what will happen with their children if that happens," Sablan said. "This is probably a situation that should also be brought up with federal officials as they draft the new regulations on immigration."

Sablan noted that in talks held earlier this year, Labor officials revealed they are crafting so-called "extreme hardship" rules for foreign workers, a plan that could pave the way for measures to address the special needs of



Sablan



Salas

such families.

Sablan and Salas' bid to aid these families comes as a coalition of foreign workers with children who have disabilities—including conditions like autism, Down's Syndrome, hearing impairments and Attention Deficit Disorder—is now taking shape on Saipan with plans also to rally support elsewhere in the Commonwealth in a bid to win government help and provisions that would allow the families to stay in the CNMI with their children.

"If they have to go back to the Philippines, which is where many of them are from, or other countries, they probably can't get the help they need," said

Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local labor group. "And if they leave their children here—they have special needs—who will take care of them?"

In an interview Sunday, a trio of workers involved in the newly formed group—who declined to be named publicly—urged parents like them throughout the Commonwealth to band together.

"Our kids are special," said one mother whose autistic son receives therapy on Saipan. "If they send me home, what will happen to my son? All parents of children with disabilities on Saipan need to stay with them to guide them as they grow."

The workers noted that in ru-

ral regions of the Philippines, for example, access to services that are available in the CNMI—like speech therapy, occupational therapy and hydrotherapy—is limited or often nonexistent, meaning the services they get in the CNMI are all the more valuable. But Labor officials, the workers said, have previously told them, like other parents whose children are citizens, that they could elect to leave their children on Saipan in the care of someone else when they are repatriated.

"These kids are different than other kids because they have special needs," a second parent said. "They can't send us home and have us leave them here."

Neither Salas nor Labor officials could be reached for comment on the issue at press time.

Inmates, first lady team up for bus stops cleanup

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Corrections has teamed up with first lady Josie Fitial to clean up bus stops in preparation for the school year's opening.

The department started the Fitial-sponsored beautification project on Monday by repainting the bus stops.

DOC Commissioner Lino S. Tenorio told the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that sprucing up the bus stops would take two to three weeks—until just before the school year's start.

"There's about eight to 10 inmates doing that [repainting] on [a] daily basis...officers are guarding them as they do that," Tenorio said.

The first lady provides the paint and other materials.

Meanwhile, local residents can

thank the department for its recent cleanup of the former La Fiesta Mall, previously an eyesore.

Tenorio said the Fitial administration requested a few months ago for DOC to maintain the defunct mall.

"The best way to get it maintained is by our staff. The inmates are doing that because they have to contribute something to the community," he said.

Instead of fielding the staff from the Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Works and Marianas Visitors Authority, DOC has been cleaning up the mall at least once or twice a month, he said.

"Now it's no longer an eyesore like before; the *tangan-tangan* trees and grasses were very, very tall, and [now] it's covered with green. We make sure that we maintain that on a monthly basis," Tenorio added.

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-080 (A)(B)(C)(D)
Opening Date: July 30, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CONTINUOUS FORM FEED LASER PRINTER, SEVEN (7) LASER NETWORK PRINTER, ONE (1) DIGITAL DESKTOP COPIER/NETWORK PRINTER/FAX/COLOR SCANNER AND TWO (2) LAPTOP SYSTEM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-081 (A)(B)(C)(D)
Opening Date: July 30, 2008 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ELECTRIC WHITEBOARD, FIFTEEN (15) UNIVERSAL POWER SUPPLIES, TWO (2) APC SMART-UPS 3000VA USB & SERIAL 230V AND ONE (1) DVR SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH/ WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Second Floor Aletta Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE
 Requirements for Filing a Complete Application

The requirements of the Labor Department's automated processing system necessitate that each application be complete when filed. However, applications need be complete when filed only for Labor Department purposes, not for Immigration Division purposes. Applications can be supplemented when they reach the Immigration Division.

For Labor Department purposes, the following are NOT REQUIRED in order to have a complete application filed with Labor Processing:

- Health certification
- Police clearance
- Passport copy
- BGRT information

Employment Services may require the filing of BGRT information in connection with a job vacancy announcement and Labor Processing may request BGRT information when examining an application, but this information is not required to be filed in every case.

A completed Job Vacancy Announcement **IS REQUIRED** in order to have a complete application.

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LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE
 Published Notice of Deficiencies and Denials
 with respect to Applications Filed with the Labor Department

On August 1, 2008, the Labor Division will begin publishing on the Labor Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, notices with respect to deficiencies in and denials of applications. The Labor Division will also post these notices on the bulletin boards at its offices in the Aletta Square building in San Antonio.

The Department is taking this step, in part, because of difficulties in the past when foreign national workers did not know that an employer's application involving employment for them had been deficient or denied. This way, everyone involved will have access to the notice. In addition, the Department is operating under an austerity budget that requires it to use the most efficient legally permissible means possible to deliver notices.

All applicants are responsible for checking the website or the bulletin boards for actions taken on any pending application. Applicants will have 15 days from the date of posting to cure deficiencies or to appeal denials.

If an applicant provides an e-mail address at the time of application, the Department's automated processing system will automatically send an e-mail with respect to any deficiency or denial. The e-mail notice is a courtesy provided by the Department. Absence of an e-mail notice will not excuse any failure to cure a deficiency or to appeal a denial.

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LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE
 Published Notice of
 E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO
 THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

Employment Services
employmentservices@cnmi-gov.net
 Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

Labor Processing
laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net
 Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

Labor Enforcement
laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net
 Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Enforcement.

Administrative Hearing Office
laborhearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net
 Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.

Tenorio urges more funding support for IGIA

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C. has hailed the work of the Inter-agency Group on Insular Areas,

Villagomez to attend lieutenant governors association's meeting

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez will join 20 of the nation's seconds-in-command in Buffalo, New York, on July 23-26, 2008, for the National Lieutenant Governors Association Annual Meeting. The meeting will feature policy briefings and site visits to showcase ideas lieutenant governors may take back to their states.

"Energy prices are rising, state revenues are shrinking, housing is in a slump, and state officials must innovate to balance budgets and meet the service needs of constituents," said NLGA director Julia Hurst.

Meeting briefings on innovations and fiscal matters include an economic outlook forecast, tourism and the arts, managing the cost of chronic illness, the state of the steel industry, public-private partnerships in parks, and urban renewal. Conservation topics and site visits include wind energy development, a visit to urban windmills, the Department of the Interior water conservation project, and hybrid vehicle information. Preservation topics and site visits include turning a brownfield into a state park and continuation of Great Lakes policy work via a site visit.

Featured speakers and guests include New York Gov. David Paterson, Delaware North Companies vice-president Jeremy Jacobs Jr., Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett, First Wind CEO Paul Gaynor, National Ad-

saying the group could do more with funding support.

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, in a congressional hearing on the IGIA's work, said the U.S. Office of Management and Budget should be more involved in the IGIA's efforts to ensure the group's plans get proper funding.

The IGIA is a consultative body tasked with obtaining advice and information on policy issues that the insular areas face individually and collectively. Formed in May 2003, the group consists of the heads of the executive departments and the heads of agencies designated by the Interior secretary.

The House Subcommittee on Insular Areas, chaired by U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen, conducted an oversight hearing on July 17 to receive testimonies on the "successes and challenges" of the IGIA.

Tenorio, one of the witnesses at the hearing, said the IGIA was instrumental in developing two plans that could have helped the Northern Marianas address its critical infrastructure needs.

First, Tenorio said, the IGIA developed an implementation plan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' report on the improvement of water systems throughout the Commonwealth. Even though the IGIA's plan identified funding sources, no money for CNMI water system improvements were included in the President's budget submission or in the final appropriation.

"While water volume production has increased due to appropriations by Congress in FY2004 and 2005 budgets, not a drop of water from the Saipan water system is potable. Saipan's water system is unhealthy causing residents to purchase expensive bottled water for drinking and cooking. It also greatly increases the cost of doing business by investors," he said.

Also with the IGIA's help, a bill creating a U.S. territories bond bank was drafted. The idea was to create a bank that pools the resources of the insular areas and issues combined debt in the form of tax-exempt bonds. Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo introduced the bill in the House of Representatives,

but the bill, according to Tenorio, was derailed by a lack of OMB support.

"In concept, I believe the IGIA is crucial to increasing the communication about and the advocacy for insular areas within the federal government. I would like to see our next President again form the IGIA, and would recommend that it include a greater involvement by the Office of Management and Budget," Tenorio said.

Douglas W. Domenech, acting deputy assistant secretary of the Interior, also called for the continuation of the IGIA's work.

"We believe the IGIA is a useful forum for the leaders of the territories to speak directly and frankly to the leaders of federal agencies," Domenech said in his testimony. "One of the main advantages of this dialogue is educational. As both the federal agencies and the territories learn more about each other's issues and how things work in the other's domain, they will be able to develop deeper understanding of each other's needs and how to resolve common problems. The IGIA members have taken on some big issues, and we hope this work will continue."

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PARTNER PLEDGE

Joeten Corp.'s Frances Demapan signs the "5-Year Strategic Plan Partner Pledge" during the culmination of the three-day meeting at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club last week. The event was attended by representatives of various government agencies, non-profit organizations and private business and was hosted by the Health Promotion Council, a project initiated by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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Bordallo responds to B-52 crash

HAGATNA, Guam—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued the following statement regarding the recent crash of a B-52H Stratofortress on rotation to Andersen Air Force Base, nearly 30 miles northwest of the Guam coast:

"My thoughts and prayers are with the family members of the airmen who lost their lives in this terrible tragedy. The B-52 was slated to fly over the Lib-

eration Day parade as part of our island's celebration. The Air Force family lost two of its own today and their loss is shared by our entire island community. Our local leaders continue to work closely with military and federal authorities to search for the other four missing crew members. We will continue to offer our prayers and any assistance that we can provide to help find the remaining crew." (PR)



Tenorio

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA
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Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
MELL SENOKO	007E	7/12 SAT	7/10 THU	6/30 MON	7/17 THU	7/1 TUE	7/5 SAT	7/18 FRI	7/14 MON	7/13 SUN	7/8 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/14 MON	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	7/19 SAT	7/17 THU	7/7 MON	7/24 THU	7/8 TUE	7/12 SAT	7/25 FRI	7/21 MON	7/20 SUN	7/15 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/21 MON	7/25 FRI	7/19 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	020E	7/26 SAT	7/24 THU	7/24 THU	7/31 THU	7/15 TUE	7/19 SAT	8/1 FRI	7/28 MON	7/27 SUN	7/22 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/28 MON	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/2 SAT	7/31 THU	7/31 THU	8/7 THU	7/22 TUE	7/26 SAT	8/8 FRI	8/4 MON	8/3 SUN	7/29 TUE	7/20 SUN	8/4 MON	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/9 SAT	8/7 THU	8/7 THU	8/14 THU	7/29 TUE	8/2 SAT	8/15 FRI	8/11 MON	8/10 SUN	8/5 TUE	7/27 SUN	8/18 MON	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/16 SAT	8/14 THU	8/14 THU	8/21 THU	8/5 TUE	8/9 SAT	8/22 FRI	8/18 MON	8/17 SUN	8/12 TUE	8/3 SUN	8/25 MON	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	007E	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/26 SAT	SKIP	7/30 WED	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/14 THU	8/12 TUE	8/10 SUN
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/6 WED	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	7/22 TUE	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/21 THU	8/19 TUE	8/17 SUN
STADT HAMBURG	020E	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/9 SAT	SKIP	8/13 WED	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/19 TUE	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/28 THU	8/26 TUE	8/24 SUN
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/16 SAT	SKIP	8/20 WED	8/22 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/23 SAT	8/22 FRI	8/30 SAT	9/4 THU	9/2 TUE	8/24 SUN
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/23 SAT	SKIP	8/27 WED	8/29 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/30 SAT	8/29 FRI	9/6 SAT	9/11 THU	9/2 TUE	8/31 SUN
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/29 FRI	8/30 SAT	8/30 SAT	SKIP	9/3 WED	9/5 FRI	9/6 SAT	8/29 FRI	9/13 SAT	9/11 THU	9/9 TUE	8/31 SUN	9/17 WED

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Key federal officials meet to discuss CNMI energy woes

WASHINGTON D.C.—With CNMI energy problems worsening daily and no existing comprehensive plan, CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio has appealed to key federal officials to aid the CNMI in developing and implementing an effective energy plan for the CNMI.

“Energy is by far our biggest problem, and without a comprehensive plan to fix these problems, the people of the CNMI are going to continue suffering through daily outages or be forced to live without electricity altogether. This is completely unacceptable; we need real plans and federally backed financing to fix this problem. But this cannot happen overnight. I have brought together key congressional and administrative officials to begin working on this,” said Tenorio.

Present at a meeting to begin work on this issue were Interior deputy assistant secretary Doug Domenech, Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs staff director Tony Babauta, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs majority counsel Brian Modeste, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs minority staff director Rich Stanton and Senate Energy Committee staff member Alan Stayman. Also present for the CNMI was Rep. Ralph Torres, chairman of the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee for the CNMI House of Representatives.

“It is highly unusual to get this group together in one room to discuss an issue faced by a territory, but they understand the magnitude of the problem and realize that this cannot be addressed by the CNMI alone,” said Tenorio.

Others consulting with this group are John McCarroll, manager, Pacific Islands Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Steve Feldgus,

professional staff for the Energy Subcommittee and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The scope of the problem

“The CNMI lacks an infrastructure plan, and we most assuredly lack a reasonable plan that will address our electrical generation problems. We have wasted millions of dollars in scarce federal CIP money on contracts to repair generators that are too old and beyond repairs. We need a realistic short term plan that will provide electricity to the community. Years ago when the power plant burned down, the military loaned us a power barge until we could build a new power plant. I have requested the Department of Interior to help us identify U.S. resources that can help us through the next few years,” Tenorio said.

Planning is a necessity

“I am dismayed that the CNMI lacks an infrastructure development plan. I do not know how projects are chosen or prioritized in the annual allocation of CIP money. I am glad that Representative Torres was present in the meeting; I hope that when he returns to the CNMI he can urge the Legislature to be more aggressive in their oversight of CIP money and pass legislation establishing a planning process for CIP. The community must be involved in the process of determining priorities and direction,” Tenorio said.

Good decisions are made for infrastructure development when they are based on a good plan. “We need unbiased and objective experts and engineers to come to the CNMI and evaluate our power plants, the electrical grid and provide realistic advice on how to solve these problems. I stress unbiased and objective, because we don’t need anymore salesmen trying to convince us their product is the answer to all

of our problems. I think that, in part, is how we ended up in this mess today,” stated Tenorio.

“Since the Legislature has now approved the Aggreko deal to lease generators, I hope this is a resolution to the immediate crises. However, we are still dependent upon aging generators for the majority of our power generation,” said Tenorio.

An intermediate plan will detail how the CNMI can transition to reliable, stable power in a few years. The emphasis on the intermediate plan must be on efficiency and stability. There must also be a long range plan that will establish a benchmark for reducing the CNMI’s reliance on fossil fuels.

Hawaii possesses long range energy planning. Governor Lingle has established a goal of renewable energy providing 70 percent of Hawaii’s electricity by 2030. “A lot of renewable energy is still being researched, and with the most common types, wind and solar, you must have a reliable base, such as a diesel generator that can run 24/7 in case the wind stops blowing or the sun is not shining,” said Tenorio.

Funding

The most crucial aspect of any plan is the funding. “Once we have a plan in place, it will be easier to identify federal funding. Currently we are guaranteed... \$10 million a year. I believe that we can easily get permission to float a bond with this federal resource. This should also raise our credit rating so that we can get a better deal on the bond,” explained Tenorio.

“I am also gaining support for the return of the \$27.72 million annual appropriation of Covenant funds to the CNMI,” he said.

In the mid 1990s, the growing concern over the CNMI’s handling of labor and immigration led to the parceling of Covenant

funding among four U.S. territories: Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the CNMI. The 702 Agreement signed by former Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente and then-Interior deputy assistant secretary David Cohen established the current CIP grants program for determining the amount allocated for each territory.

“My plan is to have the authorization for CIP funds increased by at least double to \$56 million. The other insular areas have had difficulty in getting Congress to pass legislation that provides them with a permanent authorization for capital improvement funding. As the other insular areas have grown accustomed to a share in the CNMI’s authorization, it would be impossible to gain their support in returning the \$27.7 million to the CNMI without providing funding for them as well. Together we can get the overall authorization increased and in doing so provide stable infrastructure funding for all of us,” explained Tenorio.

Transparency and accountability

“The CNMI government currently lacks an acceptable level of credibility because it is not transparent or fully accountable. The many questions raised by the community regarding CUC’s sole-source contracts have reached Washington. It has been made clear to me that federal funds are always to be spent in a manner that will maximize their benefit to the people. Even in an ‘emergency’ there must be attempts to promote competition and reduce impropriety,” explained Tenorio.

“More important than the CNMI’s responsibility to the federal government when spending federal money is its responsibility to the people of the CNMI to provide for their health, safety and welfare. I will continue my efforts with Congress for increased funding. When I return to the CNMI next week I will be meeting with the Legislature and Administration to see how we as a community can work together to resolve these energy crises,” said Tenorio.

Jehovah’s Witnesses host 3-day convention

Jehovah’s Witnesses will welcome hundreds tomorrow to a three-day program centering on practical guidance for all. It will include encouragement specifically for young people.

Friday will mark the start of the 2008 “Guided by God’s Spirit” District Convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses. People seek guidance and advice in today’s turbulent times, and the Bible teaches that God’s holy spirit provides such needed guidance. Program parts throughout the three-day event will highlight that theme.

The opening part on Friday morning will deal with the subject “Why Be Guided by God’s Spirit?” Later, the keynote address will explain the role of Holy Spirit in the working of Jehovah God’s purpose

for mankind and the earth. On Friday afternoon, a large portion of the program will focus on information especially helpful to young people. Witnesses believe that young people will be safeguarded if they live their lives in accordance with the guidance of God’s holy spirit. They also believe that God’s direction for young people can help them avoid many of the moral and spiritual pitfalls encountered in youthful years. The session will conclude with a convention highlight, “Young People—Safeguard Your Relationship With Jehovah!”

The program will not exclude attention for the older ones, since the Bible indicates that those who are older in years—even though they have gained

experience—also benefit from divine guidance. Saturday’s program will highlight how individuals, whether young or old, can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to resist temptation, cope with discouragement, withstand harmful peer pressure, and endure adversity. The program part, titled “Bible Writers—Borne Along by Holy Spirit,” will emphasize that the writers of the Bible were inspired by God’s holy spirit to record the contents of the Bible. The beneficial impact of the Bible’s counsel and message on the lives of millions of people will be examined, particularly in scenes and interviews throughout the convention. This impact will be especially seen on Saturday morning, when local

residents who studied the Bible will publicly symbolize their dedication to God during a baptism ceremony. This ordination of new ministers will include a discussion of what it means to be baptized in the name of the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday morning, a public discourse titled “Reap Blessings Through Jehovah’s Spirit-Guided King!” will focus on the one person appointed by God to rule with true justice and love—Jesus Christ. A full-costume drama set in the days of early Christianity will be the feature of the afternoon program.

Program sessions start at 9:20am on all three days of the convention. Admission is free, and no collections will be taken. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

July 23, 1999

New tax incentives get broad support

Despite questionable provisions, a legislative proposal granting tax exemptions to certain businesses that meet a set of criteria drew wide support from both government and private sectors at a public hearing conducted yesterday by the House Ways and Means Committee. Called the Qualifying Tax Certificate Program, the measure is sponsored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider to assist the business community in dealing with the current economic crisis through a package of incentives it is seeking.

Poker license fee row: DOF admits oversight

There is no money available to earmark \$806,000 for the Saipan Mayor’s office and other local concerns, according to Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen yesterday, as she admitted an oversight by her department when it gave the go-signal to legislators to tap revenues from poker license fees. “If they want to appropriate money from the \$2,000 (fee), the money is not there,” she told in an interview. Saipan lawmakers have voted against recalling an appropriation bill pending before the Office of the Governor, sticking with their resolve that more than \$800,000 in revenues sourced from poker license fees are available for delegation matters.

7 charged for attempt to enter Guam

The US Attorney’s Office has charged in the US District Court seven persons who were arrested at Laulau Beach on Monday while allegedly attempting to sail to Guam and enter the island illegally. Prosecutors said the seven were arrested while awaiting the arrival of the 21-foot Bayliner boat that would ferry them to Guam.

July 23, 2001

Referral process polished

Plans to ensure that government insurance subscribers can avail of needed medical treatment off-island without being asked to pay up front took a step closer to reality after the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund agreed on Friday to execute such a contract with a Honolulu-based medical referral company. The Fund’s Board of Trustees unanimously agreed on a motion to execute the contract that would retain the services of the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referrals Inc., which would facilitate all off-island treatment of Government Group Health and Life Insurance subscribers.

MVA renews plan for Manila-Saipan flights

The Marianas Visitors Authority disclosed plans to negotiate with three major Philippine airline companies for possible direct service between Manila and Saipan. The meeting, which is scheduled to take place this month, is part of MVA’s effort to beef up its marketing strategy.

New asset inventory policy out

Ever wonder what happens to old and dilapidated properties of the Commonwealth government, such as tables, chairs, computers, and such? Apparently, the same question has struck the Government Accounting Standards Board, prompting it to issue a new government reporting standard that aims to track down all fixed and capital assets of the government.

July 23, 2002

Where’s federal aid for Rota?

Rota has yet to be declared a disaster area, even as the first checks for federal disaster housing assistance for Guam go out in the mail today. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Office were scheduled to arrive on Rota late last week to conduct an assessment of the destruction caused by typhoon Chata’an. There was no confirmation from the Emergency Management Office if the FEMA representatives actually arrived, but EMO director Rudolfo Pua confirmed that federal grants coordinator Vicky Villagomez went to Rota before the weekend last week.

Showdown looms in today’s session

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said he still intends to introduce the measure that aims to increase the user’s fee by an additional 1.3 percent during today’s session, despite the opposition of some members of the lower chamber. Besides this, however, Hofschneider declined to issue any other public statements about his reported offer to resign from his post, saying everything will be made clear after today’s session.



DC VISITORS

Fe Calixterio, second from right, is joined by other recent visitors to the Marianas House in Washington D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday greetings go out to Andrei C. Lapuz, who is celebrating his fourth birthday today, July 23, 2008. Greetings come from your Auntie Evelyn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy fifth birthday to Codie Joseph T. Escota, shown here with his baby brother Caine. We love you! From Daddy, Mommy, Caine, Papa and Mama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

Rota Mayor Joseph Inos, second from right, presents a plaque of appreciation to Takashi Ota, Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Lt., director and executive adviser, second from left, at the Rota Mayor's Office during the Japanese official's recent visit to Rota. The plaque of appreciation was intended to honor Ota's support and approval of the Rota charter project during his term as CEO and president of KNT. Others in photo are, from left, Yoichi Matsumura, president of PDI, and Chris Ayuyu, mayor's special assistant. Ota told Inos that KNT is opening an exclusive KNT Rota booth at the upcoming 2008 JATA World Travel Fair. Ota also expressed his desire to return to Rota again with the tourists after falling in love with Rota's nature, golf and fishing. He has already returned to Japan and pledged his continued support to the development and progress of Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Hudkins family pose with Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio during the family's recent visit to the Marianas House in Washington D.C. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MOTHEREAD PARTICIPANTS

Congratulations to six participants who recently completed a Motherread/Fatheread Course on July 15, 2008. The eight sessions were held at the Children of our Homeland Center at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The program coordinator said the next class cycle will begin on July 29. The class will be at 6:00-7:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. For more information contact Viola or Bryan at 235-7319 or 285-1268.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



G.T.C. Elementary School partners up with Motherread/Fatheread program and participated in the Liberation Day Parade. Their message: *The Magic of Reading Can Take You Anywhere, Will Make You More Aware, Is A Gift You Can Give Yourself.* "I hope that the community hears our message about the importance of reading!" said Charlotte Camacho, G.T.C. Elementary School principal. Also in the parade are the Eagle Books Series Characters to promote diabetes prevention and a healthy life style. The CNMI Motherread Program on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities extends it heartfelt appreciation to all those individuals who joined the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the Partido Ng Samahang Pilipino have their picture taken during the group's quarterly general assembly Sunday, July 20, 2008, at Pinatang Park on Rota. The PSP, a registered non-profit corporation, will be conducting its Annual General Assembly in August to formulate the incoming Executive Board for the year 2008-2009. In addition a forum is being planned for the month of September along with the Coalition of United Workers of the CNMI, to be held on Rota, for the upcoming federalization rules and regulations. The PSP is a member of the Coalition of United Workers of the CNMI. Alfredo Antolin, the current president and CEO of PSP, serves as one of the advisers of the Coalition. From left to right: Mae Dela Cruz (Secretary nominee); Alfredo O. Antolin, Jr. (President and CEO); Manny Mag-isa (Director nominee); Ali Badilles (Vice Chairman); and Gasth Timas (Director nominee). Seated left to right: Tom Etrata (Director nominee) and Bong Openiano (current Board of Director.)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

War crimes leverage

The announcement of war crimes charges against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court invoked groans from several of the governments and aid organizations trying to help the people of Darfur — and not without reason. The United Nations peacekeeping mission to protect Darfur's more than 2 million displaced people is already failing. Though the U.N. Security Council voted a year ago to authorize a 26,000-member force, only a few hundred troops have so far joined the 9,000 African Union soldiers who previously patrolled Darfur. The force lacks helicopters or armored vehicles and is unable to prevent the regular hijacking of aid vehicles by Darfur's many armed groups; earlier this month seven peacekeepers were killed in an ambush of their convoy.

Mr. Bashir, who in all likelihood could be convicted on the counts of genocide and crimes against humanity with which he was charged, has played his familiar game of sabotage against an international intervention he agreed to only to avoid sanctions and distract the world's attention. He has refused to accept troops from non-Muslim or African countries and has bottled up supplies in port. Many believe that militias backed by his army were behind the recent ambush of peacekeepers and much of the continuing violence in both Darfur and neighboring Chad. Now, some aid groups and U.N. officials believe, he will use his indictment as an excuse to direct more violence at the U.N. force and those it is meant to protect and to reject any further peace negotiations with Darfurian rebels.

It's certainly true that attempts to bring war criminals to justice — especially by international courts — more often impede rather than advance peace settlements or regime change. The International Criminal Court, which so far has issued arrest warrants against 11 suspects, has had little luck in bringing its targets to trial or in ending their crimes. Two Sudanese officials previously indicted by the court were shielded and promoted by Mr. Bashir, who placed one of them in charge of the ministry that oversees humanitarian operations in Darfur.

The charges against Mr. Bashir may nevertheless prove useful, if the Security Council makes good use of them. The council has manifestly lacked the leverage to compel the Sudanese dictator to cooperate with peacekeeping operations or make a serious effort to settle with the Darfur rebels. Now it has a little more. The council has the authority to suspend any criminal proceedings against Mr. Bashir for a year; that provides an instrument for pressing his regime for concessions. If such diplomacy were combined with a renewed effort by the United States and European governments to solicit and provide the troops, helicopters and other equipment needed to make the peacekeeping force more effective, the slide toward anarchy in Darfur just might be arrested.

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**A WEAK DOLLAR BRINGS
FOREIGN INVESTORS...**



Bound to be

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

During a recent PassionProfit workshop, a participant realized that she was being paralyzed by the fear of failure. “How,” she asked, “can I avoid falling on my face as I pursue my passion?”

It's a common question, and an issue I knew I could help her with! Having dealt with the issue myself, and after years of coaching, I felt I had an answer that could save her years of worry and woe! So, here it is, for those of you out there who are dealing with similar fears...

Bound to Be

*I understand your fears quite well
I've lived them all before
It's tricky to make plans
not knowing what life has in store*

*You're searching for the constants
for without them life's unstable
You need to feel you're in control
and change things if you're able*

*Well, here's the magic secret
that can make your worries cease!
The antidote for failure fears
that offers life's new lease:*

*The trick is to accept
and run TOWARD the great unknown
For life hides all your treasures
just outside your comfort zone*

*The fear you feel about the risks
and things you cannot see
Are clues to tests you need to take
and therefore bound to be*

*There's bound to be some losses
so make plans to start again
There's bound to be some traitors
so learn well the ways of men*

*There's bound to be some chaos
so grow wings to ride the storm*

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

*Creating economic
success for the CNMI*

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

*There's bound to be some cold days
so plan now how you'll keep warm*

*There's bound to be some sadness
so make friends who'll make you smile
There's bound to be upheavals
so plan now your new life style*

*There's bound to be disaster
so make peace with what you fear
And blocks to where YOU'RE bound to go
like magic, disappear!*

Many life rhymes deal with the issue of fear because it's one of only two reasons why we do just about anything in life (the other being love).

The truth is that the feelings of fear you have about following your passion, starting a business, moving to a new city or country, dating, starting a new job, or simply living life at a different level are all your heart's way of pointing you in the direction of your greater self.

You see, we only fear the things that make us stretch our self-concept, and that challenge us to be someone new. In other words, we only fear the things outside of our comfort zones and regions of familiarity. But, you can never grow, expand, improve or change your life to any considerable degree unless you are willing to take a risk and step outside your comfort zone. And, as has been said quite eloquently, life hides its greatest treasures just beyond your comfort zone.

If you recognize that your success lies just beyond taking that risk and becoming that new person, then, from now on, you'll realize that if you want change, then you have no other choice but to run *toward* that feeling of fear, rather than away from it. The interesting thing is, you'll find, almost magically, that once you accept and embrace the fear that it often no longer becomes a test you need to take...

So, here in the CNMI, as factories close, as new laws take effect, as people depart, as prices rise, there is a natural fear of the unknown. It's difficult to know what to do. It's tempting to take a “wait and see” approach since any step forward sparks new fears of what the outcome will be. Doing nothing is as much of a decision as doing something. The difference is, however, is that by doing some-

See **BOUND** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obama’s centrist emphasis gives GOP ammo

By **JENNIFER LOVEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BUTTE, Mont. (AP)—Is Barack Obama close to being shadowed by giant flip-flops and, worse, having the image stick with people all the way to the voting booth?

Four years ago, Republicans branded as a “flip-flop” even the slightest rhetorical or policy change by John Kerry and sent huge replicas of the casual sandals to bob around the Massachusetts Democrat’s events, feeding an image of him as a wishy-washy panderer.

Fair or not, Kerry never recovered and lost to President Bush. It’s now the Republican weapon of choice against Obama.

The Illinois senator has excited many with the notion that he is a new, transcendent type of politician. But he is giving the GOP effort ammunition and endangering his “Change We Can Believe In” motto with several shifts to the center, most recently on the Iraq war, his campaign’s defining issue.

General election campaigns invariably find candidates fine-tuning what they said during primaries.

When politicians compete against others in their party, they must appeal to the most partisan, who tend to make up the majority of enthusiastic voters at that stage. But general elections require a broader appeal, particularly to the vast center of the nation’s electorate.

So it’s not uncommon as spring fades and November approaches to see candidates de-emphasize or even cast off some of their most extreme positions in favor of policy more palatable to the middle. They mostly do it quietly, or try to anyway.

And though there can sometimes be criticism about shifting positions, voters usually forgive and forget.

For one thing, a willingness to hone policy, add nuance or even change one’s mind—especially when new information comes to light—is not in itself a bad quality in a leader. For another, those partisans who supported a candidate in the primaries are not likely to switch parties and back the other candidate. Often the worst that can happen is they stay home on Election Day. Politicians are usually willing to risk that for the chance to court the center.

Hence Obama has been highlighting positions anathema to the left on several issues, though some have long been part of his policy.

On Iraq, Obama said Thursday that his upcoming trip there

might lead him to refine his promise to quickly remove U.S. troops from the war.

He now supports broader authority for the government’s eavesdropping program and legal immunity for telecommunications companies that participated in it, supporting the bill after some protections were added.

The handgun control proponent reacted to the Supreme Court overturning the District of Columbia’s gun ban by saying he favors both an individual’s right to own a gun as well as government’s right to regulate ownership.

Obama became the first major-party candidate to reject public financing for the general election after earlier promises to accept it.

He not only embraced but promised to expand Bush’s program to give more anti-poverty grants to religious groups, a split with Democratic orthodoxy.

He objected to the Supreme Court’s decision outlawing the death penalty for child rapists, drawing attention to his support for the death penalty if used only for the “most egregious” crimes.

Obama also said “mental distress” should not count as a health exception that would permit a late-term abortion, saying “it has to be a serious physical issue,” addressing a matter considered crucial to abortion rights activists.

The GOP increasingly has sought to take advantage of any opportunity to permanently pin the flip-flopper label on Obama, with all its unappealing associations, and strip him of the shiny-new-penny one he’s cultivated up to now.

“There appears to be no issue that Barack Obama is not willing to reverse himself on for the sake of political expedience,” said Alex Conant, a spokesman for the national Republican Party.

It might be working. Despite disarray in Republican John McCain’s camp, Bush’s dismal approval ratings and just 17 percent of the public saying the nation is moving in the right direction, recent polls show Obama unable to build a solid lead over his GOP rival.

For Obama, there is no more important issue than Iraq.

Unequivocal opposition to the war drove his entrance into the race. It helped him defeat Hillary Rodham Clinton for the nomination. It made him a darling of the anti-war activists who are now prominent and influential in the Democratic Party.

Those forces won’t like Thursday’s statement-bordering-on-a-promise that “I’ll ... continue to refine my policy” on Iraq,

particularly after he visits and makes what he said would be a “thorough assessment.”

Obama’s problem on Iraq isn’t that he is changing his position drastically, because he isn’t.

Obama has always said his promise to end the war would require consultations with military commanders and, possibly, flexibility. This, in fact, is the only reasonable stance for a U.S. commander in chief to take.

His problem is that his change in emphasis to flexibility from a hard-nosed end-the-war stance—including his recent position that withdrawing combat troops could take as long as 16 months—will now be heard loud and clear by an anti-war camp that may have ignored it before. So he could face a double-whammy in their feelings of betrayal and other voters’ belief in the Republican charge that he is craven.

It was Obama’s messy series of comments Thursday, coming after weeks in which Republicans had been goading him to change his withdrawal policy in light of reduced violence, that put an unfortunate spotlight on his quandary.

After his remark at a news conference about refining policy exploded onto the political scene, he called a do-over four hours later to “try this again.” He said the refining wouldn’t be related to his promise to remove combat forces within 16 months of taking office, but to the number of troops needed to train Iraqis and fight al-Qaida. But then he acknowledged that the 16-month timeline could indeed slip if removing troops risked their safety or Iraqi stability.

Still, he said, “I will bring this war to a close. ... I am not searching for maneuvering room with respect to that position.”

Obama said his overall problem is that he was incorrectly tagged to begin with as being a product solely of his party’s left wing, so that statements displaying a broad ideological range are portrayed as shifts when they are not. “When I simply describe what has been my position consistently, then suddenly people act surprised,” he lamented earlier this week.

But his problem may in fact be that he’s not handling the shifts quietly enough—and maybe not forgivably either.

Jennifer Loven has covered national politics for The Associated Press since 1992.

Letters to the Editor

‘Back to our roots’

Last weekend, my wife and I happily drove our 70-year old uncle “Boya” around the island. He is a retired Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He has gone through heart bypass surgery and qualifies for the Accessible Parking Placard from the Department of Motor Vehicles due to his mobility limitations.

To our dismay, we saw many locations around island that display the accessible parking logo (also known as handicapped parking), but don’t have an accessible route to their front doors. An example would be our very own public hospital, Commonwealth Health Center. There are many accessible stalls at CHC, but the entrance north of the emergency room door is not an accessible route. It does not have a slope on the sidewalk nearest the accessible stalls, which people who use wheelchairs or have mobility impairment need to access that entrance of CHC. Furthermore, we observed many vehicles without the accessible logo in their windshields parking in these stalls. There must be a reason for all this. Either they don’t care what the law says or don’t know the law itself, or have lost touch with our “island” culture.

Growing up as a little boy on an atoll in the middle of nowhere (Falalop atoll in Ulithi Yap), I realized that since our population of about a hundred people was so small, we had to help each other in order to survive. When I went fishing with my uncle Joe, he told me to give up half of our catch to the people living near us as a way of helping those who may not be able to fish anymore. What a noble idea, I thought.

Then, when we barbecued a pig (very seldom), we distributed pieces of meat to as many people as we could, sometimes, we would have only enough meat for one meal out of the whole pig. It didn’t bother us much; it actually made us happy to see others eating. In addition to that, every time we see a passerby, we invite them to come and eat, even if there was very little food. My fondest memories of childhood took place on Falalop, and I believe these ideas to be true on all our islands in this Pacific Ocean (Micro, Mela, and Poly Nesia).

It is because of these cultural aspects of our islands, that I find it very disturbing that as we modernize or westernize these days, we seem to be losing these traditions.

This Saturday, July 26, 2008, the United States of America and

all its territories including the CNMI, will be celebrating the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA. A civil rights law for people with disabilities that promotes equal opportunity, its premise is simply to create, as much as possible, a level playing field where people with disabilities can compete for jobs that they qualify for, get services from the government without physical and/or other barriers, and have equal access to goods and/or services of privately owned businesses providing to the public.

I’ve come to know the ADA because I work for Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., also known as NMPASI. You may visit us online at www.nmpasi.com to learn more.

So help celebrate independence this July by accepting that there are people on our island and in the CNMI and all across America that really need these accessible parking stalls. Like days of old, we still have to help those in our community. Not by giving them

money or donating food, but by just following the laws that exist and not using the accessible parking if you don’t qualify or have a placard for them. A little will go a long way.

This is not just for my uncle, but also for our grandparents, parents, aunts, cousins, family and yes, also yourself. It is said that a disability is a natural part of the human experience. It is also taught to me that our island cultures dictate that we take care of each other.

It may be time to go “back to our roots”. Please tune in this Saturday on Power 99 Fm (99.5fm) from eight to twelve in the morning for more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act. *Si yu’us ma’ase, olomwaay, ghilisou, kamagar, mesulang, kalangan, komol, salamat po*, and thank you for being generous with your time.

Thomas M. Thornburgh
Dandan, Saipan

Stayman-Cohen on priority

It’s mind-boggling watching a crowded contest for the historic election of a non-voting Delegate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

It’s an opportunity to espouse strange representation where our delegate’s vote counts when it doesn’t count and doesn’t count when it counts. Call it American democracy!

Whatever happened to the concept of equal representation or the privilege to participate in U.S. presidential elections? And the suckers, the likes of Alan Stayman and David Cohen, wanted complete control over policies destined to annihilate what’s left of the local economy?

Recently Stayman explained his plans for a new power genera-

tion for Saipan that died when he left OIA. It’s the usual bureaucratic excuse. Shouldn’t this issue come first in terms of priority over federalization of labor and immigration? Eh, who’s confused over priority, sir?

It’s disgusting listening to diatribes coming from Stayman and Cohen riddled with confused priorities the blame being shifted to local leadership. Well, if your plans didn’t pan out, isn’t it your responsibility to see that you follow through so that we need not go through the cascading effects of the power crisis today?

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

BOUND

From Page 10

thing, you have an opportunity to be in a better position to weather the storm and prepare for what’s bound to be.

***Note:** For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

***Note:** There’s a new blog in town! Check out [*saipan.com.*

■ ■ ■






Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt’s philosophy and formula visit \[www.saipanpreneur.com\]\(http://www.saipanpreneur.com\) and \[www.passionprofit.com\]\(http://www.passionprofit.com\).](http://www.blackson-</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75

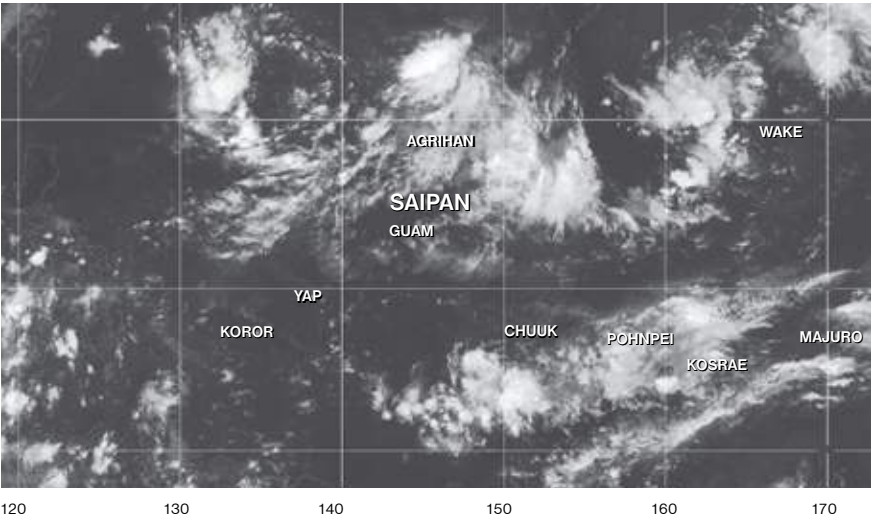
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57 ▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲94 ▼73
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼77
London	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼61
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼64
Manila	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲57 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼73
Osaka	Cloudy	▲91 ▼74
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼63
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲81 ▼58
Salem	Cloudy	▲80 ▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲77 ▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼74
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:15AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:20AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:57PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:29PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low pressure system is centered southeast of Okinawa near 23N135E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms associated with this low are found southwest of Iwo Jima within 130 miles of a line from 22N132E to 19N134E. Showers and isolated thunderstorms are located East of the low pressure center from 25N to 17N between 134E and 141E. A low to mid-level trough extends from 28N147E through the low pressure system to beyond 20N130E. Converging winds south the trough axis are producing a broad area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north and west of the Marianas within 200 miles of a line from 12N130E to 21N144E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring on the northeast end of the trough from 25N and 20N between 144E and 150E. A trough cell centered at 20N159E coupled with a surface trough is located west of Wake Island. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are observed from 21N to 16N between 160E and 164E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Majuro, Kosrae and Pohnpei with Chuuk and Kwajalein remaining north of the activity. The showers and isolated thunderstorms are located from 9N to 3N between 169E and the international dateline. A second cluster of showers and isolated thunderstorm is located within 200 miles of a line from 7N to 2N Between 149E and 159E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:58AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:09PM	9:51AM
Thursday	10:09PM	9:51AM
Friday	11:30PM	11:38AM
Saturday		12:36AM
Sunday	12:17AM	1:38PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Oil rises past \$131 on Iran, storm news

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices rose Monday on a threat of new sanctions against Iran and as Tropical Storm Dolly headed into the Gulf of Mexico, prompting a hurricane watch for parts of Texas and Mexico.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery added \$2.16 to settle at \$131.04 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It was oil's first gain in a week.

For drivers in the U.S., pump prices eased by a few pennies. A gallon of regular gasoline now sells for an average just shy of \$4.07, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Diesel prices also pulled back, to an average of \$4.818 a gallon.

Retail prices may decline even more in the coming days as gas station operators catch up to last week's four-day oil sell-off, which left crude more than \$18 below the trading record of \$147.27 it hit on July 11.

"If the futures market stays relatively flat this week, we could see some further declines at the pump," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates.

Energy traders bid oil prices up after a weekend meeting between Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., failed to break the deadlock over Iran's disputed

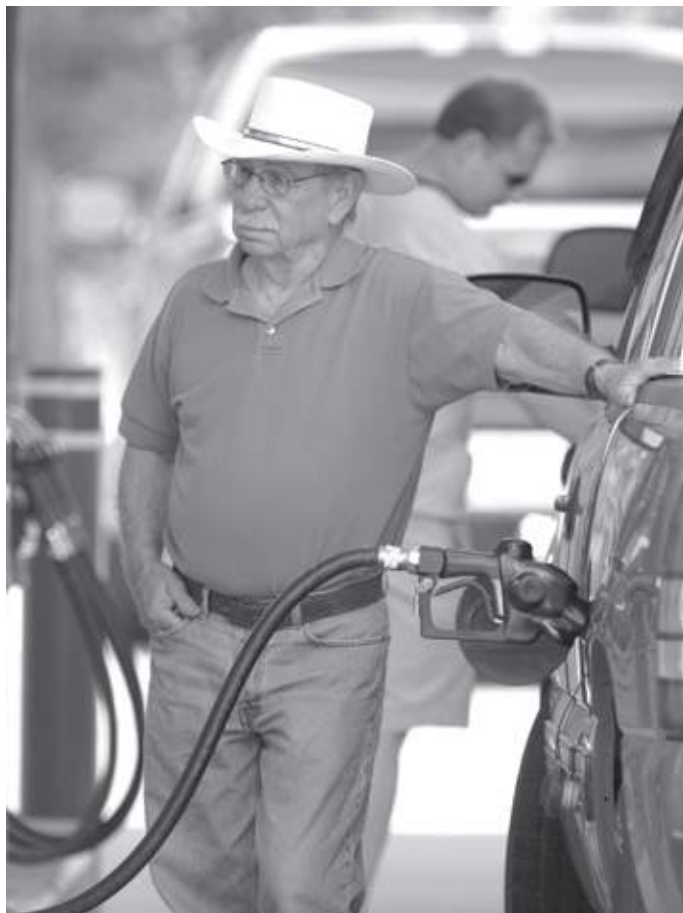
nuclear program.

In her first public comments since Saturday's meeting in Switzerland, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice accused Iran of not being serious at the talks despite the presence of a senior U.S. diplomat, and warned it may soon face new sanctions. The six nations have given Tehran a two-week deadline to freeze suspect activities and start negotiations or be hit with new penalties.

Iran is OPEC's second largest

oil producer and is estimated to be No. 2 in terms of global natural gas reserves.

Investor perception about the likelihood of conflict between Iran and the West has been a major reason for oil's rise in recent months. Traders fear Tehran could respond to an attack aimed at halting uranium enrichment by blocking oil supplies in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a passage-way that handles 40 percent of the world's tanker traffic.



D.W. Overman pumps gasoline into his truck Friday, July 18, 2009, in McKinney, Texas.

AP: Big Oil profits steered to investors

By **JOHN PORRETTO**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—As giant oil companies like Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips get set to report what will probably be another round of eye-popping quarterly profits, just where is all that money going?

The companies insist they're trying to find new oil that might help bring down gas prices, but the money they spend on exploration is nothing compared with what they spend on stock buybacks and dividends.

It's good news for shareholders, including mutual funds and retirement plans for millions of Americans, but no help to drivers already making drastic cutbacks to offset the high cost of fuel.

The five biggest international oil companies plowed about 55 percent of the cash they made from their businesses into stock buybacks and dividends last year, up from 30 percent in 2000 and just 1 percent in 1993, according to Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

The percentage they spend to find new deposits of fossil fuels has remained flat for years, in the mid-single digits.

The issue has become more sensitive as lawmakers and Americans frustrated by high gas prices have balked at gaudy reports of oil industry profits. ConocoPhillips is

scheduled to kick off the latest round of Big Oil earnings reports Wednesday.

Oil prices are set on the open market, not by the oil industry. But that hasn't stopped public protests, a series of congressional grillings for top oil executives, and a failed attempt by lawmakers to slap Big Oil with a windfall profits tax.

In the first three months of this year, Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's biggest publicly traded oil company, shelled out \$8.8 billion on stock buybacks alone, compared with \$5.5 billion on exploration and other capital projects.

ConocoPhillips has already told investors that its stock buybacks for April to June of this year will come to about \$2.5 billion—nine times what it spent on exploration.

Stock buybacks are common throughout corporate America, not just for Big Oil. They shrink the amount of stock on the open market, essentially increasing its value and giving individual shareholders a bigger stake in the company.

But some critics say Big Oil focuses too much on boosting stock prices, in an industry that sometimes ties executive pay to stock price.

And in focusing on buybacks and dividends over exploring for new oil, some critics say, oil companies jeopardize their already dwindling share of world supply.

Unemployment, stocks push down indicators

NEW YORK (AP)—Factories laying off workers, stocks tumbling and shoppers ditching their credit cards forced the economy to contract in June, a trend likely to continue in the second half of 2008, a private business group said Monday.

The New York-based Conference Board's forecast of future economic activity fell 0.1 percent last month, in line with forecasts by Wall Street economists surveyed by

Thomson Financial/IFR.

The group also revised May's number downward to a 0.2 percent decrease, from a 0.1 percent increase.

The financial crisis, high gas and food prices, and the weak dollar "are all combining to produce unrelenting downward pressure on economic activity," said Ken Goldstein, labor economist with the Conference Board. "This is also why it wouldn't take much to push the

economy so it's even weaker in the second half of 2008."

The index has slipped 0.9 percent for the six months ending in June, but the rate of decline has improved since the first quarter. The index is designed to forecast where the economy is heading in the next three to six months based on 10 economic components, including stock prices, building permits and initial claims for unemployment benefits.

S&P affirms FHB's 'AA-' rating

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Standard & Poor's Rating Services has affirmed its credit rating of First Hawaiian Bank, including its "AA-" long term rating. Standard & Poor's cited overall consistent earnings, diversified loan portfolio, and strong asset quality. During 2007, the bank's long-term credit rating was upgraded from A+ to AA-.

According to Standard &

Poor's, which is one of the nation's major independent credit rating agencies, a rating demonstrates and benchmarks a financial institution's creditworthiness. Standard & Poor's Corporate Credit Ratings provide independent evaluation of the creditworthiness of both public and private companies.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with \$13 billion in as-

sets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. The bank's holding company, BancWest Corporation (www.bancwestcorp.com), is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leader in global banking and financial services. BNP Paribas is one of the best credit rated banks in the world with an AA+ credit rating from Standard & Poor's. (FHB)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple 3Q profit jumps 31 percent but stock drops

Macintosh and iPod sales helped boost Apple Inc.'s fiscal third-quarter earnings 31 percent, beating Wall Street's expectations Monday, but investors pummeled the stock after Apple issued soft guidance for the current quarter. Steve Jobs, Apple's

chief executive, did not join the conference call with investors. Earlier in the day, the New York Post cited unnamed financial sources expressing ongoing concerns about Jobs' health. Jobs has survived pancreatic cancer. Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple earned \$1.07 billion, or \$1.19 per share, 11 cents ahead of Wall Street's

expectations, according to a Thomson Financial survey of analysts. Revenue jumped 38 percent to \$7.46 billion, ahead of analysts' average view for \$7.37 billion in sales. (AP)

Wachovia exits wholesale mortgage lending business
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—

Wachovia Corporation, the nation's fourth largest-bank, said Monday that it is leaving the wholesale mortgage lending business. Beginning July 25, the company will no longer offer mortgages through brokers, joining other lenders making similar moves to exit the troubled sector. Rival Bank of America got out of the business several months

ago. Wachovia didn't disclose how many jobs will be cut as a result of the change. More details are expected Tuesday when the Charlotte, N.C.-based bank releases its second-quarter earnings. Earlier this month, Wachovia hired Robert Steel, former Treasury Undersecretary and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive, as its new CEO.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,066.600 Down 8.800 (-0.17%)	HONG KONG 22,523.63 Down 9.27 (-0.04%)
TOKYO 12,994.07 Up 190.37 (+1.49%)	K. LUMPUR 1,103.48 Down 1.56 (-0.14%)
SINGAPORE 2,899.32 Down 19.89 (-0.68%)	MANILA 2,409.98 Down 6.64 (-0.27%)
BANGKOK 685.55 Down 1.75 (-0.25%)	SEOUL 1,556.18 Down 6.74 (-0.43%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,467.34
-29.23

NASDAQ
2,279.53
-3.25

S&P
1,260.00
-0.68

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0255
British Pound	0.4997
Canadian Dollar	1.0012
Chinese Renmbi	6.8195
Euro	0.6283
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7972
Indian Rupee	42.804
Indonesian Rupiah	9165
Japanese Yen	106.5
Malaysian Ringgit	3.243
New Zealand Dollar	1.3154
Philippine Peso	44.655
Singapore Dollar	1.3524
South Korean Won	1017
Swiss Franc	1.0179
Taiwan Dollar	30.372
Thailand Baht	33.355

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Rice to embassies: Limit aid for Obama, McCain

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Democrat Barack Obama began an overseas tour, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told employees at U.S. embassies to provide only minimal help to visiting presidential candidates. The orders went to all overseas posts and told government employees not to do anything that might show favoritism or amount to improper campaign activity. The department said the State Department issued similar orders ahead of presumed Republican nominee John McCain's overseas tours to Iraq, Mexico and elsewhere this year. Officials said the orders had been in the works for months and it was just coincidence that they were issued Thursday, the day Obama left Washington for a much-watched trip to Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East and Europe.

Man wins divorce from angry wife in YouTube video

NEW YORK (AP)—A Broadway mogul whose wife trashed him in a widely viewed Internet video was granted a divorce from her Monday. A Manhattan judge gave Philip Smith a divorce from Tricia Walsh-Smith on the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment. Walsh-Smith lashes out against Smith in the tearful and furious YouTube video, which has attracted more than 3 million hits. She makes embarrassing claims about their intimate life and then calls his office to repeat those claims to a stunned assistant. On the video, Walsh-Smith also goes through their wedding album, describing family members as "bad," "evil" or "nasty," and expresses concern about eviction from the couple's luxury apartment.

Government opposes more privileges for Hinckley

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal prosecutors argued Monday against a request by a mental hospital to allow would-be presidential assassin John Hinckley Jr. expanded visits to his family in Virginia. Hinckley has been committed to St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington since he shot and wounded President Reagan in 1981. Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity. He said he shot Reagan to impress actress Jodie Foster. In court hearings that began Monday, Hinckley's sister, Diane Sims, testified that there has been no sign of any relapse in Hinckley's psychosis and depression, even as they mourned the death of their father in January.

SC mom sentenced for setting 4 house fires

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Friends said Kimberly Wooten was the kind of person who would watch the church nursery on a moment's notice and beam with pride as she described her sons' accomplishments. But they never saw the suburban mother's demons—severe mental problems that a psychiatrist said led her to set a series of fires that destroyed four homes and terrorized neighbors. She was ordered Monday to spend 13 years in prison for the blazes. Wooten, likely wearing a wig, drove around her neighborhood, setting small fires in pine straw, grass or other vegetation, usually late in the morning or afternoon, prosecutor Robert Elam said. The last was set as she walked her dog.

Man convicted of hate crime for accosting Wiesel

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A New Jersey man who once claimed insanity was convicted Monday of a hate crime for accosting Nazi death camp survivor and scholar Elie Wiesel in a hotel elevator. Eric Hunt, 24, was convicted in San Francisco Superior Court of one felony charge of false imprisonment with a hate crime allegation. Hunt was also convicted of two misdemeanor counts—one for battery and one for elder abuse. The jury dismissed charges of attempted kidnapping, stalking and a second false imprisonment charge.

Police weigh charging womb-slash suspect's sister

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The sister of a woman accused of killing a pregnant woman and cutting a baby from her womb led police to the wrong unit when they went to search the suspect's apartment, authorities said Monday. Officials were deciding whether to file charges against Andrea Curry-Demus' sister, whose name could not immediately be verified. Curry-Demus, 38, is charged with homicide, kidnapping and related charges in the death of Kia Johnson and in obtaining the baby. She was being held at the Allegheny County jail, and authorities did not know whether she had an attorney. Curry-Demus and Johnson apparently met at the jail last week while visiting different inmates, police said.

Salmonella strain found in jalapeno

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government inspectors finally have a big clue in the nationwide salmonella outbreak: They found the same bacteria strain on a single Mexican-grown jalapeno pepper handled in Texas—and issued a stronger warning for consumers to avoid fresh jalapenos.

But Monday's discovery, the equivalent of a fingerprint, doesn't solve the mystery: Authorities still don't know where the pepper became tainted—on the farm, or in the McAllen, Texas, plant, or at some stop in between, such as a packing house.

Nor are they saying the tainted pepper exonerates tomatoes sold earlier in the spring that consumers until last week had been told were the prime suspect.

Still, "this genetic match is a very important break in the case," said Dr. David Acheson, the Food and Drug Administration's food safety chief.

For now, the government is strengthening its earlier precaution against hot peppers to a full-blown warning that no one should eat fresh jalapenos—or products such as fresh salsa made from them—until it can better pinpoint where tainted



A vendor stands behind jalapeno pepper for sale in a market in Mexico City, Monday, July 21, 2008.

McCain insists he was right on Iraq

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP)—Republican John McCain worked on Monday to wrestle the spotlight from rival Barack Obama's tour of Iraq by insisting he was right and the Democrat was wrong about the war and releasing a new critical ad blaming higher gas prices on his opponent.

As Obama toured the war zones trailed by U.S. network TV anchors, McCain ridiculed him from afar during a visit with the first President George Bush at his summer home on the Atlantic. At the same time, the Republican contender released an eyebrow-raising new ad flatly



McCain



Obama

blaming the Illinois senator for higher gasoline prices.

The Republican and Democratic presidential contenders have differed sharply over Iraq. Obama has said he would withdraw U.S. troops from combat there over

16 months while reinforcing the U.S. effort against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan. McCain has resisted any timetable for withdrawal, insisting that victory in Iraq is a necessary precursor to success

in Afghanistan.

Any withdrawal of troops from Iraq "must be based on conditions on the ground," McCain told reporters as he stood beside the 84-year-old former president.

Texas, Mexico prepare for Tropical Storm Dolly



Michael Gorsline moves around to board up the third window on a back room of his home Monday, July 21, 2008, in Corpus Christi.

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Residents along the Texas-Mexico border kept a watchful eye on Tropical Storm Dolly on Mon-

day, stocking up on plywood, generators and flashlights as forecasters predicted the storm would strengthen into a hurricane later

this week and make landfall.

Hurricane warnings were issued late Monday for parts of the Texas and Mexico coasts, meaning hurricane conditions were expected in those areas by the end of Tuesday.

The storm was expected to bring high winds and dump 10 to 20 inches of rain in coastal areas near the U.S.-Mexico border. Emergency officials feared major flooding problems and urged coastal residents to prepare.

Shell Oil said it was evacuating workers from oil rigs in the western Gulf Of Mexico, and the federal government was trying to decide whether they could begin construction on a new border fence, which was to be combined with levee improvements along the Rio Grande in Hidalgo County.

ones may have sold.

Tomatoes currently on the market, in contrast, now are considered safe to eat.

The Texas plant, Agricola Zaragoza, has suspended sales of fresh jalapenos and recalled those shipped since June 30—shipments it said were made to Georgia and Texas.

FDA said no other produce currently in the plant has tested positive for salmonella, and was continuing to probe where the produce came from and went.

But a sign over Agricola Zaragoza's spot inside a huge produce warehouse on Monday displayed pictures of tomatoes, onions and tomatillos alongside jalapenos—suggesting the small vendor might have handled both major suspects in the outbreak that has sickened 1,251 people.

McAllen, Texas, near the Mexican border, is in a region deemed a major hub for both Texas-grown and imported produce. Although Agricola Zaragoza is a small operation, it's unclear whether inspectors have yet visited the company's neighboring vendors inside the huge warehouse filled with tractor-trailers loading and unloading fruits and vegetables.

St. Louis-area firefighter dies in apparent ambush

MAPLEWOOD, Mo.

(AP)—Firefighters became victims of what appeared to be an ambush Monday when they were fired upon from a house as they worked to put out a vehicle fire across the street, police said. One young firefighter was killed, two police officers were wounded and the house where the shots were fired later burned to the ground.

It was unclear Monday afternoon whether the gunman died in the house fire; authorities were searching the remains of the brick bungalow, St. Louis County police spokeswoman Tracy Panus said.

Little was known about the man who lived in the house in Maplewood, a suburb just southwest of St. Louis. Neighbors described him as quiet and reclusive.

Someone began firing shots from the house when firefighters arrived in response to a 5:40am report of a pickup truck fire.

The city identified the slain firefighter as 22-year-old Ryan Hummert, son of former Maplewood Mayor Andy Hummert. Officials said he was shot to death as he got off the fire truck.

The firefighter had graduated from paramedic training in August and from the fire academy in March.

Asia

Suu Kyi's detention to last until 2009

SINGAPORE (AP)—Myanmar's foreign minister has said pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi can be kept in detention legally until late 2009 and

not until December this year as reported earlier, Singapore officials said Tuesday.

Myanmar Foreign Minister Nyan Win was misunderstood

by his nine counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations during a dinner conversation on Sunday, said a Foreign Ministry official.

Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo subsequently passed on Nyan Win's remarks to the media, which reported widely that a new glimmer of hope had been raised for Suu Kyi's early freedom.



Suu Kyi

Yeo had quoted Nyan Win as saying that a political detainee can be held for a maximum of six years, and that the limit was approaching in about "half a year's time."

But the Straits Times newspaper on Tuesday quoted Yeo as saying that the six-year period will only be reached in the six months after May 2009, when her latest one-year detention period expires.

The Times quoted Yeo as saying the ministers had "misunderstood" Nyan Win.

The Foreign Ministry official confirmed Yeo's comments. Singapore government

officials cannot be named under briefing rules.

The new position dashes hopes of an early release for Suu Kyi, who has now been detained for more than 12 of the last 18 years at her home in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

In a clear sign that ASEAN is getting fed up of the Myanmar junta's foot-dragging on democracy, the foreign ministers issued a statement Sunday expressing "deep disappointment" at the junta's decision in May to extend Suu Kyi's detention.

Beijing has first workday car restrictions

BEIJING (AP)—Traffic flowed a little smoother. Busy avenues had fewer cars. By nightfall, even the hazy sky had mostly cleared.

So went the first workday under a government-imposed plan to reduce Beijing's foul air pollution before the start of next month's Olympics.

Millions of commuters turned to subways, buses and car pools as the strict program sought to take half of Beijing's 3.3 million cars off the road.

In parts of the city, traffic was visibly lighter than on other workdays.

"There were much fewer vehicles on the airport expressway, and I could drive much faster," said civil servant Lin Kai, shaving with an electric razor while sitting in his parked car.

He said he bought a new bicycle because of the restrictions and would try to pedal to work a few times a week despite the summer heat and the hour-long ride.

The two-month operation that began Sunday bans cars with odd-numbered license plates one day, even-numbered plates the next. The ambitious attempt to ensure "blue sky days" by the time 10,500 athletes and 500,000 visitors arrive for the Aug. 8-24 Olympics includes construction cutbacks and factory closures.

Those caught driving on days they should not will be fined \$14, a stiff penalty even for Beijing. It wasn't known how many tickets were issued; phones rang unanswered all day at the police traffic man-

agement bureau.

Sun Weide, spokesman for Beijing's Olympic organizing committee, said the plan should reduce vehicle emissions by 63 percent. The emissions are a major cause of the thick, gray-brown haze that often hides the city's skyline.

Changes in air quality will be monitored by experts from the city's environmental protection bureau, which has 27 survey stations around Beijing and another 18 in Olympic venues, according to the state-run Beijing Times newspaper.

So far, "the air in the city is good, the density of pollutants has fallen," the report said, citing the bureau. But it will take at least 20 days for results to be conclusive, deputy director Du Shaozhong was cited as saying.

ASIAN BRIEFS

American kidnapped, released in RP; daughter still held

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen kidnapped a retired U.S. Marine and his daughter from their Philippine home, but released the former serviceman three hours later after demanding a ransom for his daughter, police said Monday. Four armed men barged Sunday night into the house of Filipino-American Ver Loyola in the resort city of Tagaytay, south of Manila, tied up his wife and maid, and then drove away with Loyola and his 19-year-old daughter, Cristina, a regional police report said. The assailants also took two cell phones, assorted jewelry worth \$1,570 and \$1,900 in cash, the report said. Three hours later, the kidnappers abandoned Loyola and the car in a nearby town but demanded a \$67,400 ransom for the daughter.

Police: Suicide bomber wounds 3 Afghan civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A police official says a suicide bomber has wounded three civilians in an attack outside a popular park in Afghanistan's capital. Ali Shah Paktiawal says the bomber was on foot and detonated himself Tuesday in western Kabul next to the walls of the city's historic Babur Gardens. Paktiawal says three civilians riding in a minibus have been wounded. He says there were no police, soldiers or foreigners in the area at the time. A massive suicide bombing outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul this month killed more than 60 people and wounded nearly 150. Nevertheless, Kabul has seen fewer attacks this year compared to 2007.

US offers nuclear proposal to NKorea

SINGAPORE (AP)—The United States has proposed a mechanism for verifying North Korea's claims about its nuclear past, Washington's top envoy to the nuclear talks said Monday. The proposal was made in Beijing last week, and the U.S. is waiting for a response from Pyongyang, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told

reporters. After giving North Korea the proposal "we ... asked them to come back with specific comments," said Hill, who will assist U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in talks between the foreign ministers of the six nations involved in the nuclear negotiations—China, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and the U.S. Hill said the six-party talks, to be held Wednesday on the sidelines of a regional security conference in Singapore, are likely to discuss the verification issue.

Court silences Pakistan nuclear scientist

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A court silenced the disgraced architect of Pakistan's atomic weapons program on Monday, weeks after he implicated President Pervez Musharraf in the delivery of nuclear technology to North Korea. Abdul Qadeer Khan's wife said the scientist may appeal the ruling, which bars him from speaking about nuclear proliferation and could end his role in throwing more light on Pakistan's murky record of spreading nuclear know-how. Khan has been kept under de facto house arrest in the Pakistani capital since 2004, when he took sole responsibility for leaking atomic secrets to countries including Iran and Libya.

Report: 36 trapped in south China mine

BEIJING (AP)—Twenty miners have escaped or been rescued from a flooded coal mine in southern China but 36 remain trapped, a state-run news agency said Tuesday. Xinhua News Agency said 56 miners were trapped when the Nadu mine in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region flooded late Monday afternoon, but seven managed to escape. Another 13 were rescued, Guo Shengkun, secretary of the regional Communist Party Committee, was quoted as saying. Xinhua said rescuers had made contact with 12 of the trapped miners, and were trying to send water and food to them. They are trapped 2,000 yards below the surface, it said. There has been no contact with the other 24 miners.



INSTANT FIRE BRIGADE

Residents use pails of water to douse a fire that razed through a poor district of Paco Monday July 21, 2008, in Manila, Philippines. One person was injured in the three-hour fire that gutted close to a hundred shanties and rendered hundreds homeless.

Tamil rebels: Peace talks 'impossible'

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan rebels said Monday that a new round of peace talks on ending the country's 25-year-old civil war is impossible as long as the government presses ahead with a military offensive.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said earlier this month he was prepared to restart long-dormant talks with the Tamil Tiger rebels if the group lays down its arms and ceases bombings and other attacks across the country.

Balasingham Nadesan, the head of the rebels' political wing, said Rajapaksa's conditions were "naive" and "impractical" and there was no way the two sides could negotiate while the fighting continued to rage.

"It is impossible to hold peace talks when one party, the government of Sri Lanka, is undertaking large-scale military offensives," he told The Associated Press in an e-mail interview from the rebel stronghold

of Kilinochchi in the north.

While they rejected the peace talks, the rebels declared they would observe a cease-fire from July 26 until Aug. 4, saying in a statement the gesture was a sign of goodwill to other countries in the region. However, if the government attacks, the rebels will respond, the statement said.

Presidential spokesman Lucien Rajakarunanyake said the military would end the offensive if the rebels disarmed.

Myanmar cyclone damage estimated at \$4 billion

SINGAPORE (AP)—Survivors of Myanmar's Cyclone Nargis face a "second emergency" unless relief efforts receive an influx of \$1 billion in international aid over the next three years, according to the first full assessment of the disaster released Monday.

The joint report by the U.N., the Myanmar government and Southeast Asia's main bloc provides for the first time a comprehensive breakdown of the survivors' needs in the aftermath of the May 2-3 disaster—details

foreign donors have demanded as a condition for aid.

The report puts the damage from the cyclone that devastated the Irrawaddy delta and parts of Yangon at \$4 billion. Infrastructure and asset losses amounted to about \$1.7 billion and loss of income was estimated at \$2.3 billion.

It paints a dismal picture of the impact of the storm, which killed at least 84,537 people. Another 53,836 are missing and presumed dead.

A wall of water destroyed 450,000 homes and damaged 350,000, the report said. About 75 percent of health facilities were damaged, as were 4,000 or more schools.

In mid-June, 55 percent of survivors had rations enough for only one day or less.

"It was a tragedy of immense proportions," Surin Pitsuwan, the secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, told a news conference at which the report was released.

World

Top war crimes suspect arrested in Serbia

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, accused architect of massacres and the politician considered most responsible for the deadly siege of Sarajevo, was arrested Monday evening in a Serbian police raid ending his 13 years as the world's most-wanted war crimes fugitive.

His alleged partner in the persecution and "cleansing" of tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats, former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic, remained at large.

A psychiatrist turned diehard Serbian nationalist politician, Karadzic is the suspected mastermind of mass killings that the U.N. war crimes tribunal described as "scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of human history." They include the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica, Europe's worst slaughter since World War II.

"This is a very important day for the victims who have waited for this arrest for over a decade. It is also an important day for international justice because it clearly demonstrates that nobody is beyond the reach of the law," said Serge Brammertz, the



In this Sept. 23, 1992 file photo, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic holds a knife he said was seized from Croat soldiers in Bosnia during a news conference in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

tribunal's head prosecutor.

Serbian President Boris Tadic's office said Karadzic, 63, was arrested "in an action by the Serbian security services" and taken before the investigative judge of Serbia's war crimes court, indicating imminent extradition to the U.N. war crimes court in The Hague, Netherlands.

A Serbian police source, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk to the media, said Karadzic was seized in a Belgrade suburb after weeks of surveillance of his safe house and a tip from a foreign intelligence service.

Authorities said Karadzic was detained Monday evening in a raid, but his attorney said it occurred Friday on a bus. "He just said that these people showed him a police badge and then he was taken to some place and kept in the room. And that is absolutely against the law what they did," Sveta Vujacic told AP Television News.

If Karadzic is transferred to the U.N. tribunal, he would be the 44th Serb suspect extradited to the tribunal. The others include former President Slobodan Milosevic, who was ousted

in 2000 and died in 2006 while on trial on war crimes charges.

Serbia braced for a possible reaction from ultra-nationalists who are believed to have helped shelter Karadzic and Mladic over the years.

Heavily armed special forces were deployed around the war-crimes court in Belgrade as dozens of Karadzic supporters gathered nearby. Several were arrested after attacking reporters in front of the courthouse. Karadzic's brother, Luka, was also seen arriving at the location in central Belgrade.

Serbian police also deployed throughout central Belgrade as well as in front of the U.S. Embassy, which was targeted in nationalist rioting over Kosovo's declaration of independence in February.

The White House called the arrest "an important demonstration of the Serbian government's determination to honor its commitment to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal."

In the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo - besieged throughout the war by Bosnian Serb national-

ists - streets were jammed late Monday as Bosnian Muslims celebrated the arrest.

Operating from strongholds in Pale and Vraca high above the city, the Serbs starved, sniped and bombarded the center of Sarajevo, controlling nearly all roads into and out. Inhabitants were kept alive only by a thin lifeline of food aid and supplies provided by UN donors and peacekeepers, and risked their lives merely walking down the street, shopping in a market or driving on one of the main roads, which became known as "Sniper Alley."

The siege, which began in April 1992, was not officially lifted until February 1996, after NATO intervention and the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords. During that time, an estimated 10,000 people had died in and around the city.

Serbia has been under increasing international pressure to find Karadzic and turn him over. Still, his arrest came as a surprise to many. His whereabouts had been a mystery to U.N. war crimes prosecutors unlike those of Mladic, who had last been spotted living in Belgrade in 2005.

Cut in US forces in Iraq likely this fall

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's security has improved so much, even as U.S. troop levels have dropped, that President Bush seems likely to order thousands more soldiers home by year's end.

That was not the widespread view only three months ago when Bush announced there would be a temporary halt to troop reductions once the last of five "surge" brigades left Iraq this month. Many believed the country would remain too fragile to justify thinning American

combat lines before 2009.

However, two weeks of observing U.S. and Iraqi troops in and around Baghdad, coupled with Associated Press interviews with commanders and planners, suggest a likelihood that Bush will move to reduce the U.S. force by perhaps another combat brigade, or roughly 3,000-4,000 soldiers, toward the end of the year. More cuts seem possible next year, but the scale and timing will depend on who replaces Bush in the White House.

It now looks as though Bush

has more reasons to resume the drawdown than to leave the entire decision to his successor. Not all the reasons are good news: The situation has deteriorated in Afghanistan, and commanders there say they need a substantial infusion of combat power and military trainers to curb the insurgency.

Politically, the Iraqi government is asserting its wish for a speed-up in U.S. troop withdrawals. On Monday the chief spokesman for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said the govern-

ment hopes the U.S. withdraws its combat troops by 2010.

U.S. domestic political pressures to get out of Iraq are building, too. Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama, who met with al-Maliki in Baghdad on Monday, says he would get all combat forces out within 16 months of taking office. Republican John McCain is opposed to setting any timeline for withdrawals, and says troops will come home as security improves. That's what the White House says, too.

Zimbabwe sides agree to power-sharing talks

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Three months after the voting and violence began, Zimbabwe's embattled President Robert Mugabe and his bitter opposition rival agreed Monday to hold talks immediately about sharing power to end the country's political crisis.

But the rivals' first joint appearance in a decade did not bring relief to Zimbabweans grappling with the world's worst inflation. They lined up outside banks for Monday's release of a new Zimbabwe \$100 billion note issued by the central bank - an instant hit with collectors on eBay.

Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai signed the breakthrough deal agreeing in cautious language that they have an obligation to establish a

framework of "working together in an inclusive government."

It commits them to creating a "genuine, viable, permanent and sustainable solution" within two weeks and calls on parties to "eliminate all forms of political violence."

The deal, following three months of state-sponsored electoral violence, was seen as a victory for the opposition and was similar in concept to the pact worked out between rivals to end ethnic and political violence in Kenya that killed more than 1,000 people earlier this year.

Tsvangirai called it "the first tentative step toward searching for a solution," adding that "not finding a solution is not an option."

Gitmo trial begins for bin Laden's driver

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—The judge in the first American war crimes trial since World War II barred evidence on Monday that interrogators obtained from Osama bin Laden's driver, ruling he was subjected to "highly coercive" conditions in Afghanistan.

But Judge Keith Allred, a Navy captain, left the door open for the prosecution to use statements Salim Hamdan made at Guantanamo, despite defense claims that all his statements were tainted by alleged abuse including sleep deprivation and solitary confinement.

Hamdan, who was captured at a roadblock in Afghanistan in November 2001, pleaded not guilty at the start of a trial that will be closely watched as the first full test of the Pentagon's system for prosecuting alleged terrorists. He faces a maximum life sentence if convicted of con-

spiracy and aiding terrorism.

The chief prosecutor for the tribunals, Army Col. Lawrence Morris, said the loss of some of Hamdan's statements will not keep the trial from going forward.

"It does not reduce my confidence in our ability fully to depict Mr. Hamdan's criminality," he told reporters. "We're fine."

The judge said the prosecution cannot use a series of interrogations at the Bagram air base and Panshir, Afghanistan, because of the "highly coercive environments and conditions under which they were made."

At Bagram, the judge found Hamdan was kept in isolation 24 hours a day with his hands and feet restrained, and armed soldiers prompted him to talk by kneeling him in the back. His captors at Panshir repeatedly tied him up, put a bag over his head and knocked him the ground.

Israelis, Palestinians skeptical about Obama



In this photo released by the U.S. army, U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama, right, and top U.S. military commander in Iraq, David Petraeus, 2nd right, walk down a runway at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, Monday, July 21, 2008. Iraq's government welcomed Obama on Monday with a message of apparent common ground on American troop withdrawal goals: expressing hopes that combat forces could leave by 2010.

JERUSALEM (AP)—When Barack Obama comes to Israel this week, he's going to find plenty of skeptics wondering whether such a foreign policy neophyte has what it takes to finally nail down a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Democratic presidential hopeful has already gotten himself into hot water over one of the thorniest issues in the Israeli-Palestinian divide: the status of disputed Jerusalem. Last month, he tried to woo Israel's powerful lobby in Congress by saying Jerusalem should be Israel's capital and "must remain undivided."

Palestinians, who claim the city's eastern sector as capital

of a future state, were furious. Obama's attempts to defuse the flap then got him into trouble with some Israelis and their U.S. supporters, when he clarified his remarks to say Jerusalem's fate should be negotiated - the long-standing U.S. position.

"When the candidate lands here tomorrow, a fog of ambiguity will still hover over his position: It remains unclear whether Jerusalem, the focus of his brief trip, will be a united city under Israeli sovereignty or the capital of two states. Barack Obama doesn't have a clear idea himself, and he has been straddling the fence," former dovish lawmaker Yossi Sarid wrote in Monday's Haaretz newspaper.

Campus Life

A divide of grades and expectations

By **HECTOR BECERRA**
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The eight students walked into a room at Lincoln High School prepared to discuss an issue many people, including some of their teachers, considered taboo.

They were blunt. Carlos Garcia, 17, an A student with a knack for math, said, "My friends, most of them say, 'You're more Asian than Hispanic.'"

"I think Carlos is Asian at heart," said Julie Loc, 17, causing Carlos to laugh good-naturedly. Asian students who get middling grades often get another response, she said.

"They say, 'Are you really Asian?'" Julie said.

"It's sad but true," said Eliseo Garcia, a 17-year-old with long rocker hair, an easy manner and good grades. "I had an Asian friend, but he didn't necessarily get (great grades). ... We used to say, 'He's Mexican at heart.'"

What accounts for such self-deprecating humor? Or the uneven academic performance that prompts it?

California's top education official, Supt. Jack O'Connell, called for that kind of discussion last fall when he decried the "racial achievement gap" separating Asian and non-Hispanic white students from Latinos and blacks.

Lincoln Heights is mostly a working-class Mexican American area less than five miles northeast of downtown, but it's also a first stop for Asian immigrants, many of them ethnic Chinese who fled Vietnam.

Both the neighborhood and student body are about 15 percent Asian. And yet Asians make up 50 percent of students taking Advanced Placement classes. Staffers can't remember the last time a Hispanic was valedictorian at the school of 2,500 students.

"A lot of my friends say the achievement gap is directly attributable to the socioeconomic status of students, and that is not completely accurate," O'Connell said. "It is more than that."

But what is it? O'Connell called a summit in Sacramento that drew 4,000 educators, policymakers and experts to tackle the issue. Some teachers stomped out in frustration and anger.

No Lincoln students stomped out of their discussion. Neither did any teachers in a similar Lincoln meeting. But the observations were frank, and they clearly made some uncomfortable.

To begin with, the eight students agreed on a few generalities: Hispanic and Asian students came mostly from poor and working-class families. According to a study of census data, 84 percent of the Asian and Hispanic families in the neighborhoods around Lincoln High have median annual household incomes below \$50,000. And yet the Science Bowl team is 90 percent Asian, as is the Academic Decathlon team.

"Look at the statistics. It's true," said George De La Paz, 17, whose single mother works as a house cleaner.

Asian parents are more likely to pressure their children to excel academically, the students agreed.

"They only start paying attention if I don't do well," said Karen Chu, 15, whose parents emigrated from Viet-



Carlos Garcia, second from right, was elected president of the Asian Club at Lincoln High School in Los Angeles. Preconceived notions play out strongly at Lincoln: Many say Asian students caught in the halls without passes rarely get in trouble, but Latinos often do.

nam. "They don't reward me for getting straight A's. I don't get anything for that. But if I get a B, they're like, 'What's this?'"

If her grades slipped, she said, her parents laid on the guilt extra thick. "My parents are always like, 'If you don't do well in school, then it's all going to be worth nothing,'" Chu said, laughing nervously.

Julie Loc, the daughter of a seamstress and a produce-truck driver, said that if she gets a B, her parents ask whether she needs tutoring. She said her father used to compare her to other people's children, noting their hard course loads or saying, "They have a 4.3 (grade-point average). Why do you only have a 4.0?"

Loc said her mother, Kin Ho, finally told her father to stop making comparisons. Ho, in an interview, said with a slightly embarrassed smile, "My daughter has embraced American culture, where she expects my reassurance and approval. Our children, if they did something well, they would ask us if we were proud of them, if they did good. They ask if we love them."

De La Paz said his mother, a Mexican immigrant, has high expectations for him too, but she is not so white-knuckled when it comes to school. She wants him to do well—he's now thinking of college—but the field of endeavor is up to him.

"She said, 'I came here to do better for you,'" he said. "But that's about it. Being happy and getting by, that's what she wants."

For Carlos Garcia, the one with the knack for math, the message from his parents was to focus on school. Neither got to finish grade school in their native countries.

His mother, Maribel, from El Salvador, is a homemaker; his father, Santos, a Mexican immigrant, is a drywall finisher who once took Carlos and his older brother to work with him—to scare them away from manual labor. Two of their children have college degrees, one is still in college and Carlos, the only Hispanic on Lincoln's Academic Decathlon team, wants to attend the California Insti-

immigrated from Mexico at 14.

Nava, the only one of six siblings to go to college, said he was once like many of his students. His parents wanted the children to finish high school, but there also was an expectation that they get jobs and help the family.

"A lot of my relatives don't see my job as a stressful job at all," Nava said. "If I tell them I'm tired, they say, 'Why? You're not doing any labor. You're not doing anything.'"

Rocio Chavez, 18, said that even though her older sister graduated from high school, their mother didn't really expect her to go to college.

"I guess she didn't expect that from me, either," Chavez said. "And now that I'm going to move on to college, she's kind of scared. She gets kind of sad I'm leaving. She's like, 'You're supposed to graduate from high school, go to work and help me out.'"

Frank D. Bean,

a professor of sociology at the Center for Research on Immigration, Population and Public Policy at the University of California, Irvine, has studied the Mexican work ethic and found that work and education occupy the same pedestal, and in some cases, work is even more valued.

Bean said his research shows that children of Hispanic immigrants, if they drop out of school, are more likely to be working than most other students who leave school.

"In Latino families, being able to work to provide defines your manhood, your worthiness," said Min Zhou, a sociology professor at the University of

California, Los Angeles, who has studied working-class Korean and Chinese communities.

Hispanic and Asian families in Lincoln Heights were essentially in the same socioeconomic boat, she said, but Asian immigrants were more likely to have been more affluent and had better education opportunities in their native countries.

Of course, there are exceptions to stereotypes at Lincoln. "My mom just wants me to pass," said Thin Lam, 17.

But Thin said counselors assumed he wanted to take a slew of AP classes, and a counselor urged him to take AP calculus.

"I said, 'Yeah, sure, I want to take it,'" he said. "In the end, I dropped it."

A few hours after the eight students concluded their discussion, some teachers gathered in Principal James Molina's office.

"I feel a little bit uncomfortable talking about racial and ethnic generalizations," said Cynthia High, a 20-year teaching veteran now in charge of teachers' aides and other programs.

"In some situations, it sparks a good conversation. In others, it's more taboo-ish to talk about it," said William Olmedo, who teaches AP physics.

Barbara Paulson, who coordinates Lincoln's magnet program and teaches AP biology, said it had been understood for a long time that teachers needed to try harder to recruit Hispanic students for AP classes because "the Asian kids come on in droves."

Olmedo said many capable Hispanic students refuse to take AP classes or join other academically rigorous activities.

Teachers said they were saddened by self-defeating attitudes.

"I think the thing I always hear from the Latino kids is, 'Oh, well, Miss, he's Asian, she's Asian. Of course they do well,'" said Alli Lauer, who teaches English. "It's frustrating to hear them do it to each other."

But as one student said in a separate interview, many Hispanic students are responding to cues. Johana Najera, 17, said the Academic Decathlon offers a not-so-subtle cue about who belongs.

"We already know that it's Asian, and they kind of market it more for Asians," Najera said. She noted that the shirts for the Academic Decathlon team have a logo done in the style of anime, Japanese animation. "It appeals more to Asian students," she said.

Gilbert Martinez, who teaches AP government, turned the conversation toward parents' attitudes, summarizing a discussion from one of his Chicano studies classes.

"Let's say a Latino student is studying and an Asian student is studying," Martinez said. "The Latino parent will often say, 'Hey, come help me out real quick, then you can go back to your studying.' Where the Asian parent will say, 'Oh, you're doing your homework. OK, you finish, and then after you're done, you come help me.'"

High recalled a good Hispanic student she had a few years ago. He also was a gang member.

"He would wear baggy pants, and he would load up his pants with books," she said. "He looked around to make sure no one was seeing him so he could look like the baddest kid in the block."

'They only start paying attention if I don't do well.

They don't reward me for getting straight A's. I don't get anything for that. But if I get a B, they're like, 'What's this?'

tute of Technology.

Ericka Saracho, 16, an A student, said her Hispanic family did not push her to do well in school. When she got a rare B, "they're like, 'Oh, wow, Ericka finally got a B! How do you feel about that?'" she said. She is one of the few Hispanic students on Lincoln's Science Bowl team.

Fidel Nava, a coordinator for English learners at Lincoln, said some Hispanic students say that Asians get higher grades simply because they're Asian.

"In a sense, they have come to believe that it's OK for Asians to be smart and not for Hispanics," said Nava, who

Life & Style

A crowning last act for a character actor

By MICHAEL SRAGOW
(C) 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Heath Ledger died at an age when many gifted actors first reach lift-off. At 28, he had achieved acclaim, popularity and riches. But he was just beginning to define himself as an actor and a star.

In Todd Haines' "I'm Not There," he played a tortured big-screen idol, ill at ease with conventional accomplishment and fame, in the manner of Bob Dylan—or James Dean. When Ledger succumbed to an accidental overdose of prescription drugs in January, Dean provided an inevitable point of comparison. They both died young (Dean was even younger, 24), and each had big movies in the can—Dean, "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant," and Ledger, "The Dark Knight," which opens Friday.

Ledger's death struck fear and self-loathing into the hearts and minds of publicists for "The

movie, the gay cowboy romance, "Brokeback Mountain." He was nominated for best actor, Jake Gyllenhaal for best supporting actor. But it was Gyllenhaal who carried the movie.

If the picture clicked for millions of moviegoers, it was probably because Gyllenhaal allowed them to see Ledger's stiff, emotionally strangled Ennis del Mar through the eyes of the besotted Jack Twist. Whether you consider it a camp classic or a wrenching cry from the heart, Twist's anguished "I wish I knew how to quit you" became the film's signature line.

Still, Ledger was earnest, talented and game, committed to acting for the long haul. With the success of "Ten Things I Hate About You," he could have pursued celebrity as a heartthrob. Instead he opted for difficult, diverse roles, including a jail guard who refuses to become a third-generation racist in "Monster's Ball." When he let you see him sweat in that movie, he

any of the kids in this movie; he plays an arrested adolescent with a grungy dignity that underlies even his drunken bouts of self-pity. He lets this character grow on you. And it's this sneak-attack quality that could have made Ledger a director's best friend for decades to come.

One quality that Ledger and Dean did share is rapid growth. Ledger gave his most entertaining and inventive star performance as the free thinker and hedonist in the period romp "Casanova," which came out right after "Brokeback Mountain." For once, in a lead role, he relaxed—and conquered. In "Casanova," he's sunny when he's hopping beds at night and comically quick and alert when making the Venetian social scene during the day.

At last comfortable with his good looks and more confident than ever about his intelligence, Ledger is superb when he sprawls across a couch and rehearses how to ask a woman what's

'Dark Knight' finishes with a record \$158.4 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Bruce Wayne just keeps getting richer.

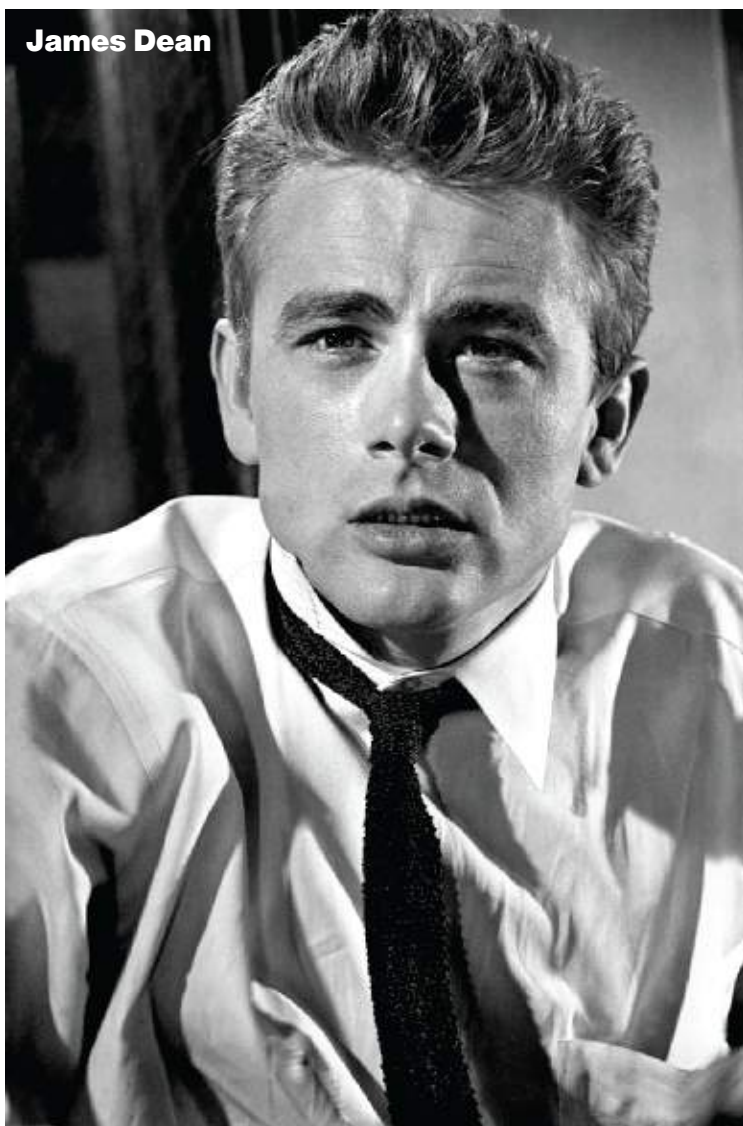
"The Dark Knight," the crime saga about vigilante Batman and his wealthy alter ego Wayne, debuted with a record \$158.4 million, according to final weekend numbers Monday. That was up \$3.1 million from studio estimates of \$155.3 million a day earlier.

Starring Christian Bale as Batman and the late Heath Ledger as the Joker, "The Dark Knight" surpassed Hollywood's previous best opening weekend of \$151.1 million set last year by "Spider-Man 3."

The hotly anticipated sequel to "Batman Begins" grew into a cultural event after Ledger's death from an accidental prescription-drug overdose in January, with critical acclaim over his maniacal performance firing up fans for the film.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Media By Numbers LLC:

1. **"The Dark Knight,"** Warner Bros., \$158,411,483, 4,366 locations, \$36,283 average, \$158,411,483, one week.
2. **"Mamma Mia!"**, Universal, \$27,751,240, 2,976 locations, \$9,325 average, \$27,751,240, one week.
3. **"Hancock,"** Sony, \$14,040,178, 3,776 locations, \$3,718 average, \$191,543,979, three weeks.
4. **"Journey to the Center of the Earth,"** Warner Bros., \$12,340,435, 2,830 locations, \$4,361 average, \$43,504,712, two weeks.
5. **"Hellboy II: The Golden Army,"** Universal, \$10,117,815, 3,212 locations, \$3,150 average, \$56,526,885, two weeks.
6. **"WALL-E,"** Disney, \$10,070,396, 3,310 locations, \$3,042 average, \$182,732,709, four weeks.
7. **"Space Chimps,"** Fox, \$7,181,374, 2,511 locations, \$2,860 average, \$7,181,374, one week.
8. **"Wanted,"** Universal, \$5,072,805, 2,433 locations, \$2,085 average, \$123,322,635, four weeks.
9. **"Get Smart,"** Warner Bros., \$4,125,021, 2,135 locations, \$1,932 average, \$119,608,695, five weeks.
10. **"Kung Fu Panda,"** Paramount, \$1,860,854, 1,505 locations, \$1,236 average, \$206,616,381, seven weeks.
11. **"Meet Dave,"** Fox, \$1,659,424, 3,011 locations, \$551 average, \$9,398,409, two weeks.
12. **"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,"** Paramount, \$955,846, 757 locations, \$1,263 average, \$312,569,461, nine weeks.
13. **"Kit Kittredge: An American Girl,"** Picturehouse, \$951,358, 769 locations, \$1,237 average, \$13,769,304, five weeks.
14. **"Sex and the City,"** Warner Bros., \$721,152, 515 locations, \$1,400 average, \$149,870,455, eight weeks.
15. **"The Incredible Hulk,"** Universal, \$626,515, 656 locations, \$955 average, \$131,767,165, six weeks.
16. **"Iron Man,"** Paramount, \$451,838, 375 locations, \$1,205 average, \$314,376,968, 12 weeks.
17. **"Tell No One,"** Music Box, \$400,947, 55, \$7,290 average, \$1,057,050, three weeks.
18. **"You Don't Mess With the Zohan,"** Sony, \$365,667, 261 locations, \$1,401 average, \$97,736,720, seven weeks.
19. **"Mongol,"** Picturehouse, \$257,411, 195 locations, \$1,320 average, \$4,867,490, seven weeks.
20. **"Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure,"** National Geographic, \$168,658, 46 locations, \$3,666 average, \$16,011,239, 42 weeks.



James Dean



Heath Ledger

Dark Knight." How could they publicize Ledger's vaunted acting feat in the new Batman film without looking like grave-robbers? Although posthumous performances sometimes have helped movies at the box office (Jean Harlow's biggest hit was "Saratoga"), Ledger in "The Dark Knight" plays Batman's arch-villain, the Joker, as a psychotic anarchist, getting off on destruction. Stories of the actor's demise theorized that Ledger's trip to the dark side of the Joker put him over the edge.

But in recent weeks, Warner Bros. has positioned Ledger for an Academy Award nomination and erased any residue of ghoulishness. That decision might be right, in more ways than one.

The evidence on screen shows that as Ledger fulfilled his promise he might have developed as a character-actor star, like Robert Duvall or Gene Hackman, rather than a generation-defining personality, like Dean.

Right from the start of his career, Dean conjured an aura that transcended acting. Ledger never developed that kind of resonant big-star persona, not even in his one certified Zeitgeist

also showed you blood and tears. And his tension as an actor sometimes blended, in a good way, with his character's.

His splashy adventures were at least offbeat, such as the arena-rock-flavored knight-in-shining-armor film, "First Knight," and the remake of "The Four Feathers," a tale of courage and cowardice during the British Army's crusade against the Islamic fanatic known as the Mahdi in the mid-1880s.

Directors liked Ledger and were loyal to him: He played Jacob Grimm in Terry Gilliam's "The Brothers Grimm" and was in the middle of another Gilliam picture, "The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus," when he died.

He lacked the gravity and dash that could have anchored and energized sprawling fantasies like "First Knight." He might have grown into those qualities. But I generally preferred him in juicy supporting roles, such as the mentor-entrepreneur in "Lord of Dogtown," who practices tough love on his skateboarding team yet keeps faith with his own personal counter-culture. Ledger has more genuine pathos than

on her mind.

Dean's greatest performance was his last one, as Jett Rink, the disreputable Texas ranch hand turned fabulous oil tycoon in "Giant." He creates a character as unsentimental and emotional, as unique and influential, as any in American movies. He speaks in a sometimes comic, sometimes moving mumble, and when he stomps out the outline of his small parcel of land in giant steps, he makes you feel the birth of pride in ownership.

In just three movies he made the transition from a specialist in embattled juveniles to an actor who could evoke the emotional scars of a grizzled, wasted old man. According to the run of recent feature stories, Ledger enjoyed nothing more than doing the character-actor's vanishing act and disappearing into a role.

"If I'm going to have a past, I prefer it to be multiple choice!" says the Joker in the Batman graphic novel, "The Killing Joke." That's how the artistically adventurous Ledger must have thought about the future. Let's hope Ledger's Joker crowns his career the way Dean's Jett Rink did his.

Court tosses FCC 'wardrobe malfunction' fine

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Among the most notorious on-screen gaffes ever, Janet Jackson's breast-baring "wardrobe malfunction" on CBS during the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show drew a \$550,000 indecency fine from the Federal Communications Commission. Now a federal appeals court has thrown it out.

A panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that the FCC "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" in issuing the fine for the fleeting image of nudity, which it noted lasted just over half a second. An estimated 90 million people watching the Super Bowl heard Justin Timberlake sing, "Gonna have you naked by the end of this song," as he reached for Jackson's bustier.

The court said the FCC deviated from its nearly 30-year practice of fining indecent broadcast programming only when it was so "pervasive as to amount to 'shock treatment' for the audience."

Duke University law professor Stuart M. Benjamin, a telecommunications law expert, called the decision "a slap in face for the FCC." But the long-term significance of Monday's ruling is uncertain, given the Supreme Court's decision to take up a broadcast indecency case later this year—the first since 1978.

FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin said he was "surprised by to-

day's decision and disappointed for families and parents."

"I continue to believe that this incident was inappropriate, and this only highlights the importance of the Supreme Court's consideration of our indecency rules this fall," Martin said.

Lurking behind the case, Benjamin said, is a "really big First Amendment issue: Is there really any difference between broadcast and cable, Internet, books, et cetera?"

"If we apply the same First Amendment scrutiny to broadcast as we do to other forms of communication, all these broadcast indecency rules are almost certainly unconstitutional," he said.

In siding with CBS, the 3rd Circuit panel found that the FCC strayed from its long-held approach of applying identical standards to words and images when reviewing complaints of indecency.

"Like any agency, the FCC may change its policies without judicial second-guessing," the court said. "But it cannot change a well-established course of action without supplying notice of and a reasoned explanation for its policy departure."

CBS said it hoped the decision "will lead the FCC to return to the policy of restrained indecency enforcement it followed for decades." "This is an important win for the entire broadcasting industry because it recognizes that there are rare in-



In a Sunday Feb. 1, 2004 file photo, entertainer Janet Jackson, left, covers her breast after her outfit came undone during the half time performance with Justin Timberlake at Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston.

stances, particularly during live programming, when it may not be possible to block unfortunate fleeting material, despite best efforts," the network said.

Andrew Jay Schwartzman of the Media Access Project, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of a group of TV writers, directors and producers, said the ruling helps preserve

creative freedom on the air.

"The court agreed with us: the FCC's inconsistent and unexplained departure from prior decisions leaves artists and journalists confused as to what is, and is not, permissible," he said.

But Tim Winter of the watchdog organization Parents Television Council said the decision

"borders on judicial stupidity."

"If a striptease during the Super Bowl in front of 90 million people—including millions of children—doesn't fit the parameters of broadcast indecency, then what does?" Winter said.

The FCC had argued that Jackson's nudity, albeit fleeting, was graphic and explicit and CBS

should have been forewarned.

At the time, broadcasters did not employ a video delay for live events, a policy remedied within a week of the game.

In challenging the fine, CBS said that "fleeting, isolated or unintended" images should not automatically be considered indecent. But the FCC said Jackson and Timberlake were employees of CBS and that the network should have to pay for their "willful" actions, given its lack of oversight.

The \$550,000 fine represented the maximum \$27,500 levied against each of the network's 20 owned-and-operated stations.

Shortly after the 2004 Super Bowl, the FCC changed its policy on fleeting indecency following an NBC broadcast of the Golden Globes awards show on which U2 lead singer Bono uttered an unscripted expletive. The FCC said at the time that the F-word in any context "inherently has a sexual connotation" and can trigger enforcement.

NBC challenged the decision, but that case has yet to be resolved.

In June 2007, a federal appeals court in New York invalidated the government's policy on fleeting profanities uttered over the airwaves in a case involving remarks by Cher and Nicole Richie in awards shows carried on Fox stations. The Supreme Court will hear the case this fall.

TV host: Omarosa 'delusional, pathetic'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reality TV villain Omarosa sparred with talk show host Wendy Williams on Monday in a spat that at one point turned physical.

She appeared on Fox's "The Wendy Williams Show" to promote her upcoming book but instead spent more time trading insults with the radio personality-turned-talk show host.

"I wanted to throw her off the set," Williams later told The Associated Press.

The altercation started when Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth first walked onto the daytime talk show and said she was displeased with Williams' introduction of her and would not be disrespected. Things got uglier when Williams grabbed Omarosa's book cover to hold it up to the camera, and Omarosa snatched it back out of Williams' hand.

"Omarosa wished her career was my career," Williams told the AP. "Omarosa is a delusional, D-list, pathetic woman."

The yanking gave way to Omarosa attacking Williams' appearance, asking the talk show host whether she had had a nose job and suggesting she shouldn't wear wigs.

But Williams didn't stay silent throughout the heated interview. She called Omarosa "a typical angry black woman" and suggested cosmetic injections could fix her wrinkles.

Will there be a rematch?

"I have no reason to invite Omarosa back to the show," said Williams. "That's done. She had her moment."

Omarosa was a contestant on the first "Apprentice" with Donald Trump in 2004.

Her domineering personality quickly earned her enemies among fellow contestants and TV viewers.

An after-hours telephone message and e-mail to Omarosa's publicist were not immediately returned Monday.

1st Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Cecilia Villagomez Mori

October 27, 1947 • July 31, 2007



would like to invite our family and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate 1st anniversary of our beloved mother of her passage unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church in Koblerville from Wednesday, July 23 to Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay.

The Family

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Daniel Duenas Babauta

March 16, 1954 – July 19, 2008

He was called to his eternal rest at the age of 54.



He is predeceased by:

Parents: †Dolores Palacios Duenas Babauta
†Dionicio Miyasaki Babauta

Maternal Grandparents: †Jose Villagomez Duenas
†Nieves Palacios Duenas

Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Cruz Babauta
†Maria manibusan Miyasaki Babauta

Father in-law: †Lufo Navarro Quiambao

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Remedios Quiambao Babauta
Children: Jally Marie B. & Anthony DLC. Camacho
Jervy Miere Q. Babauta & Franny B. Atao (Franshia Jolie)
Lufo Don Q. Babauta & Bernice B. cepeda (Jordan Daniel Lufo Jr.)

Brothers & Sisters:

Merced B. & John S. Pangelinan
Edward B. & Thelma B. Babauta
Lydia B. & Noel Q. Taisacan
Thomas D. & Sylvia S. Babauta
Nobert D. & Kimiyo T. Babauta
Carmen B. & Diego DLG. Camacho
George D. & Eunice S. Babauta
Sandra B. & Franklin T. Sablan

Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Roque Church.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

**Remedios Q. Babauta,
Children & Grandchildren**



In this Monday, Dec. 3, 2007 file photo, radio talk show host Michael Savage poses with his dog Teddy in Tiburon, Calif.

Leno's last 'Tonight' is May 29; O'Brien in June 1

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Conan O'Brien will take over the "Tonight" show next June - and what happens to deposed host Jay Leno after that is anybody's guess.

Leno's last show will be Friday, May 29, and O'Brien will start the following Monday, June 1, NBC executives told a Television Critics Association meeting Monday.

NBC is angling to keep Leno with NBC Universal but the late-night king has indicated he's ready to jump ship.

Eager NBC competitors, including other networks and syndicators, are prepared to help him make the leap.

Ben Silverman and Marc Graboff, NBC Entertainment co-chairmen, were asked about the specter of Leno being hired by ABC and overpowering O'Brien and top-rated "Tonight."

"We really believe in the decisions we've made with our partners, including Jay," and stand by them, Silverman replied.

Graboff disagreed with the premise of the question, saying talks aimed at keeping Leno within NBC Universal post-"Tonight" are continuing.

But, Graboff added, "we've made our decision, we're happy with it, we're very confident the 'Tonight' show will remain dominant in its time period."

Despite its prime-time woes, NBC has managed to maintain its late-night ratings dominance, although O'Brien has been challenged lately by Craig Ferguson on CBS. Now NBC is attempting a tricky transition based on a promise made nearly four years ago that O'Brien

would succeed Leno.

The network attempted to defuse the issue Monday with humor: Leno was seated among the press corps, disguised as a bald, bearded reporter who was armed with questions about himself.

But the exchange came off as more pointed than funny, unlike a similar staged encounter between ABC late-night host Jimmy Kimmel and a network executive last week at the critics' meeting.

Kimmel, identifying himself as a Florida newspaper reporter, tweaked his bosses as he posed questions about his job security if Leno comes to ABC; Leno, on the other hand, represents a threat to NBC if he goes elsewhere.

"(Green Bay Packers quarterback) Brett Favre retired and then wanted to come back," Leno said to Silverman and Graboff. "The Packers said no. What do you make of that?"

Favre retired in early March but recently expressed second thoughts about playing in 2008. The change of heart has drawn lukewarm enthusiasm from the Packers, who spent the offseason planning to move ahead with Aaron Rodgers as their starter - akin to the O'Brien-Leno switch.

"Everyone's entitled to change their mind. But I'd imagine that puts management in an impossible situation," Silverman replied, gamely.

"Is it true you've offered Leno a fifth hour on the 'Today' show?" Leno said.

"That's a great idea, actually," Silverman said.

Nah, replied Leno, "It's a crappy idea."



O'Brien

Radio host angers parents of autistic children

NEW YORK (AP)—Radio talk show host Michael Savage, who described 99 percent of children with autism as brats, said Monday he was trying to "boldly awaken" parents to his view that many people are being wrongly diagnosed.

Some parents of autistic children have called for Savage's firing after he described autism as a racket last week. "In 99 percent of the cases, it's a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out," Savage said on his radio program last Wednesday.

Savage offered no apology in a message posted Monday on his Web site. He said greedy doctors and drug companies were creating a "national panic" by overdiagnosing autism, a mental disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate.

On his radio show last week, he said: "What do you mean

they scream and they're silent? They don't have a father around to tell them, 'Don't act like a moron. You'll get nowhere in life. Stop acting like a putz. Straighten up. Act like a man. Don't sit there crying and screaming, you idiot.'"

The government estimates about 1 in 150 children have some form of autism. But many experts believe these unsocial behaviors were just about as common 30 or 40 years ago and that the increase is mostly caused by a surge in special education services and a corresponding shift in diagnoses.

Wendy Fournier of the National Autism Association, a parents' advocacy group, said she was invited to speak Monday on Savage's three-hour program by Savage's boss, Mark Masters of Talk Radio Network, which syndicates

the show across the country. A spokeswoman from Talk Radio Network did not immediately return a call for comment.

Fournier called Savage's comments "way, way, way over the line and cruel."

"I'm hoping to make him see the reality of what these kids are facing," she said. "You can't fix it by telling a kid to shut up. It's like telling a kid with cancer to stop being sick."

Evelyn Ain, whose 8-year-old son has been diagnosed with autism, said she had never heard of Savage and couldn't believe what she had heard when she first listened to the remarks. She organized a demonstration Monday outside New York's WOR-AM, which broadcasts Savage.

"That isn't just freedom of speech, it is hateful speech when you say 99 percent of children with autism are brats,"

she said. "I'll tell you, I wish I had a brat."

Savage, with more than 8 million listeners a week, is talk radio's third most popular personality behind Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity, according to Talkers magazine. He's made a living off bold, outrageous statements: His brief MSNBC show was canceled after he told a caller he should "get AIDS and die, you pig."

Peter Bell, executive vice president of national advocacy group Autism Speaks, said he isn't aware of any big controversy about overdiagnosis of autism. He said Savage's remarks, effectively blaming parents, reflect an outdated point of view.

"He's an entertainer, he does these things for attention," Bell said. "I think we should, to the best we can, ignore it."

Ebert, Roeper cutting ties with 'At the Movies'

CHICAGO (AP)—Roger Ebert is leaving the balcony - but hinting that he's not finished with television.

The famed film critic announced Monday that he is cutting ties with the nationally syndicated program he and the late critic Gene Siskel made famous, a day after Richard Roeper said he was quitting the show.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Ebert said Disney-ABC Domestic Television, which owns "At the Movies With Ebert and Roeper," has decided to take the program in a new direction.

"I will no longer be associated with it," Ebert said.

He didn't immediately elaborate, but it was clear the Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago Sun-Times critic wanted the show to remain as it was when he and Siskel, a fellow Chicago newspaper film critic, first hit the airwaves on PBS in 1975.

"Gene and I felt the formula was simplicity itself: Two film critics, sitting across the aisle from each other in a movie balcony, debating the new films of the week," Ebert wrote. "We developed an entirely new concept for TV."

Ebert is a trademark holder on the signature "thumbs up-thumbs down" judgment that he and Siskel made part of each film review. Last year, as he negotiated a new contract with Disney-ABC Domestic Television, Ebert, according to the Walt Disney-owned company, had "exercised his right to withhold use of the 'thumbs up' until" he had a new contract. Ebert subsequently has said the show could continue to use the "thumbs" during negotiations and that he never withheld their use.

On Monday, he said he has plans for those famous digits.

"The trademark still belongs to me and Marlene Iglitz, Gene's widow, and the thumbs will re-

turn," he wrote. "We are discussing possibilities, and plan to continue the show's tradition."

"Disney cannot use the 'thumbs,'" he said.

Ebert didn't elaborate on future possibilities. Nor did he say

Roeper, a Sun-Times columnist who signed on in 2000 after Siskel's 1999 death, said he planned to "proceed elsewhere with my ninth year as the co-host of a movie review show that honors the standards



A June 23, 2005 file photo shows Chicago Sun-Times columnist Richard Roeper, left, and film critic Roger Ebert posing for photographers following a ceremony in which Ebert was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

what - if any - role Roeper, whose work he praised, will have.

But Roeper, in his own announcement that he was leaving the program, hinted that perhaps his partnership with Ebert may not be over.

established by Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert more than 30 years ago." He added that he would soon disclose details about such a program.

Roeper didn't immediately return a call for comment Monday.

His statement said he was leaving after failing to agree on a contract extension with Disney-ABC Domestic Television, and that his last appearance will air the weekend of Aug. 16-17.

A Disney spokeswoman didn't immediately return calls for comment on the latest developments as well as whether the show would continue either in its current form or a new one.

Ebert said he is in the dark about any plans for the show, saying Disney hasn't discussed any with him.

"All I know for sure is, the show is not being taken in its current direction," he said in a second e-mail.

Ebert's announcement brings to a close a chapter in one of the longest running shows in television history. In 1975, Siskel and Ebert, two competing Chicago newspaper film reviewers, launched a program on Chicago's public broadcasting's WTTW. The two jumped to commercial television through the Tribune Co.'s TV syndication wing in 1982, switching to Disney in 1986.

The pair became stars in their own right, and their "two thumbs" reviews became one of the most recognizable assessments in the history of film criticism - with movies trumpeting a "Two Thumbs Up" as part of their own advertising.

After Siskel died of a brain tumor in 1999, Roeper was selected from among a large group of contenders to be his permanent replacement on the show.

In recent years, Ebert has been battling cancer. He has undergone a series of operations, with doctors removing a cancerous growth from his salivary gland and part of his right jaw.

He has been unable to appear on the show since doctors performed surgery in July 2006 that left him unable to speak. But he continues to churn out reviews, and has published a number of books.

Amy Winehouse's husband gets 27 months in jail

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse's husband was sentenced Monday to 27 months in jail for assault and obstructing justice.

Blake Fielder-Civil has admitted beating up pub manager James King in a barroom fight in 2006 and then offering him \$400,000 to keep quiet about it.

Judge David Radford told Fielder-Civil he had behaved in a "gratuitous, cowardly and disgraceful" way.

Winehouse, who has regaled concert audiences for months with appeals for the release of "my Blake," was not at the London court.

Fielder-Civil has spent almost nine months in jail since his arrest, and could be freed in December, once he has completed half his sentence.

Three other men—James Kennedy, Anthony Kelly and Michael Brown—pleaded guilty to involvement in the plot. Brown received 33 months for assault and perverting the course of justice (the equivalent of obstruction of justice in the U.S.), while the other two received shorter sentences.

King, the assault victim, was acquitted by a jury last month of trying to pervert the course of justice. He said he was intimidat-

ed into withdrawing his assault claim in exchange for cash.

Winehouse and Fielder-Civil, 26, married in Miami in May 2007. He was arrested in November and has been in jail ever since.

She has become an international star since releasing the Grammy-winning album, "Back to Black," in 2006. But her music has been overshadowed by reports of drug use, run-ins with the law and her tempestuous relationship with Fielder-Civil.

Fielder-Civil's lawyer, Jeremy Dein, told the judge that his client was "of exemplary good

character" and should be freed.

Radford said that while Fielder-Civil had no previous convictions, "exemplary good character" was stretching it, "if what I read about him and the use of drugs is true."

Dein said Fielder-Civil had an "intimate relationship with drug addiction," but that he and Winehouse were determined to rebuild their lives.

"It's their ambition to divorce themselves from hard drugs, not to separate themselves from each other," Dein said. "He knows that if he fails, an appointment with calamity awaits, not just for him, but for his wife as well."



Denise Richards, former wife of actor Charlie Sheen, arrives at the Los Angeles County courthouse Monday July 21, 2008, for an afternoon hearing on post-divorce child custody and visitation issues involving their daughters.

Richards-Sheen custody battle returns to court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Denise Richards went to court Monday seeking changes to a custody arrangement with ex-husband Charlie Sheen - but didn't get everything she wanted.

Richards and her attorney brought a video to Los Angeles Superior Court to try to bolster their case, but a court commissioner did not view it.

Instead, he listened to two experts' views and ordered changes to the agreement that were characterized by Sheen's attorney as "nothing meaningful"—and by Richards' attorney as beneficial for the pair's two young daughters.

Richards' attorney, Neal

Hersh, acknowledged that Superior Court Commissioner Harvey A. Silberman refused to grant some of the items requested during Monday's closed-door hearing. Hersh did not specify what changes were sought.

Hersh and Sheen's attorney, Fern Wender, declined to discuss Silberman's orders. They also refused to say what type of experts testified, or what was on the video that Richards hoped to introduce.

"The commissioner denied the majority" of Richards' motion, Wender said afterward.

Sheen did not appear, but Wender said he was pleased with the outcome.

Hersh said the changes that

were intact will be positive for the couple's children, assuming both parents enact them.

Hersh sought changes last week, citing "serious issues involving the children," but a hearing was not conducted in part because Silberman was on vacation.

Richards, who sat in court on Monday alongside her father throughout much of the morning indicated she was also satisfied with Silberman's rulings.

The couple completed a bitter divorce in 2006, and have since waged a contentious battle over the custody and care of their daughters, 4-year-old Sam and 3-year-old Lola.

Bill Murray to jump from plane at air & water show

CHICAGO (AP)—Former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Bill Murray has agreed to parachute from a plane as part of a special appearance at the Chicago Air and Water Show next month.

A spokeswoman for the Mayor's Office of Special Events says the 57-year-old actor is jumping on behalf of USO of Illinois.

The Chicago native will tandem jump with the Golden Knights skydiving team onto North Avenue Beach on August 15th.

It is the 50th anniversary of the popular show on Chicago's lakefront.

Murray received an Oscar nomination for his role in "Lost in Translation." His screen credits also include the "Ghostbusters" movies, "Caddyshack" and "Groundhog Day."

Other celebrities with Chicago roots who are participating include Gary Sinise. He is scheduled to perform with his band Lt. Dan Band.



In this July 28, 2007 file photo, Crossroads Guitar Festival master of ceremonies actor Bill Murray appears onstage as a 70's rocker in Chicago.

Friend advises punster to go slow with new colleagues

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My significant other helped me find a wonderful job with intelligent people. I'm an inveterate punster—"If I put a leafy green vegetable on the barbecue, will it be chard?"

My friend says I shouldn't share my puns with my new co-workers as it may make them feel stupid and lead them to be mad at me. Is this a problem? Will my co-workers dislike me if they don't get my puns?

Where do Bambi and the other deer go in the forest for sanctuary from hunters? To Deer Abby!
COMPULSIVE PUNSTER IN CHICO, CALIF.



Dear Abby

DEAR COMPULSIVE: Cute. But technically it would be "Deer Abbey." I'm voting with your friend. Humor is risky, so curb the punning until they get to know you better. MUCH better.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Where is it published that "you're welcome" should be replaced with, "No problem"? I never received that memo and, what's more, I don't think it makes sense.

I didn't intend to be "a problem" to anyone in the first place. So why am I not "welcome" now? It seems that parents and children have abandoned all forms of courtesy.

To those who still teach their children good manners, I say, "Thank you," and I hope you'll reply, "You're welcome."

MANNERLY MOM IN CUMBERLAND, MD.

DEAR MANNERLY MOM: You have posed an interesting question. If I had to make a guess, it might be "you're welcome" carries a connotation that what you are thanking the person for might have been a burden or an imposition. "No problem" is meant to convey that it wasn't a burden.

While I agree that it can be jarring when you're expecting "you're welcome," English is an evolving language and, rather than becoming offended, perhaps you should be grateful that the person is trying to be gracious.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I proposed to my wife 15 years ago, I surprised her with a trip to San Francisco. We got engaged on one of the benches in Ghirardelli Square. I spent thousands on the ring and more on the flight, hotel, dinners, etc.

Ever since, my wife has returned every gift I have given her for Christmas, her birthday, our anniversary and, most recently, on Mother's Day. It's never right. It's too small, too large, too expensive, too shiny, too furry—too anything.

Not surprisingly, my desire to buy her gifts has dwindled over the years to the point where I never feel like getting her anything.

Our 14th anniversary is coming up. I know, as usual, she expects me to do something to celebrate the occasion—but I don't want to waste time and effort on something she won't like and will return. I think she is ungrateful, and she will probably get nothing this time around as I am too tired to deal with it. However, if I don't buy something, I will probably feel guilty because she always buys me "something," even if it's another watch—I already have seven, which I don't wear. What should I do?

GIFT GRINCH IN CARLSBAD

DEAR GIFT GRINCH: Rather than "surprise" your wife with nothing, have a talk with her. Explain that buying her gifts that only get returned is depressing and suggest that from now on you shop for gifts together. That way each of you can select something you will enjoy, and you can share the "thrill of the hunt" together.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Rap music figure convicted in Las Vegas slaying

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A jury found a 37-year-old San Francisco rap music figure guilty in the slaying of a Kansas City rival in what authorities called a West Coast versus Midwest rap war.

Andre "Mac Minister" Dow faces life in prison after being convicted Monday of first-degree murder in the May 2005 killings of 24-year-old Anthony "Fat Tone" Watkins of Kansas City, and Watkins' friend, 22-year-old Jermaine Akins.

Dow is a promoter who has appeared on rap albums, made headlines several years ago when he brawled with another rapper at a nationally televised Source Awards show.

Police called the Las Vegas slayings revenge for the November 2004 drive-by slaying in Kansas City of 34-year-old California rapper Andre "Mac Dre" Hicks.

Another aspiring rap promoter, 29-year-old Jason Mathis, also has been charged with murder and is awaiting trial.

'Greek' star arrested for alleged drunken driving

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scott Michael Foster, star of ABC Family's frat-house series "Greek," has been released on \$5,000 bail following his arrest in Hollywood for misdemeanor drunken driving.

Police say the 23-year-old Foster, who plays Kappa Tau President Cappie on "Greek," was arrested at 12:20 a.m. Monday.

Los Angeles police Officer Sara Faden says Foster was arrested at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Cherokee Street in Hollywood. The circumstances of the arrest were not immediately available.

Foster was released on bail around 5 a.m. He's due back in court August 11th.

The Illinois native also sings in a band called Siren's Eye.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Puncturing tools

5 Halves of 23-Across

8 Somewhere out there

12 Gator's kin

13 Old man

14 Key — pie

15 Rest a bit

17 Eager

18 Piano style

19 Texas city

21 Afternoon affair

22 Felons' flights

23 Type measures

26 Maxwell Smart, e.g.

28 Excited

31 This and that

33 That girl

35 Sprint

36 Spoke sheepishly?

38 Siesta

40 Scarlet

41 McNally's partner

DOWN

2 Swathe

3 Mischievous

4 Bloodhound's clue

5 Tombstone inscription

6 Autumn abbr.

7 Relieve

8 Frightened

9 Superior, as a restaurant

10 Surrounded by

11 Give a makeover to

16 Attorneys' earnings

20 "That feels good"

23 Recede

24 Bygone bird of New Zealand

25 Ahab's first mate

27 Longing

29 Exploit

30 Third degree

32 Fireplaces

34 Square-root sign

37 "CSI" evidence

39 Petty hoodlum

42 It's left to your accountant

44 Actor Davis

45 Wrinkly fruit

46 Werewolf's catalyst

48 Sea call

49 Staff member?

50 Greek vowels

53 Swiss canton

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	U	S	T	C	O	P	J	O	G	S
A	R	E	A	O	B	I	A	L	O	E
J	A	M	B	O	R	E	E	M	I	E
A	L	I	K	E	Y	A	B	O	R	T
E	S	S	A	Y	R	E	C	L	A	I
R	E	A	M	S	E	E	A	I	D	E
E	X	P	E	C	T	S	B	Y	R	O
S	O	Y	C	P	E	A				
B	O	O	B	Y	C	U	T	E	R	A
E	R	G	O	J	A	M	A	I	C	A
D	A	R	N	A	S	P	S	H	I	N
S	L	E	D	G	A	S	M	O	N	O

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Daniel Radcliffe, 19; Omar Epps, 35; Marlon Wayans, 36; Charisma Carpenter, 38

Happy Birthday: You're competitive and creative, ready to take on whatever comes your way. You can bask in the limelight and take one of your ideas to the next level. There is nothing too great or too much trouble for you this year. Love is on the rise and you can mend broken relationships, take on new ones and turn your romantic life into something stimulating. Your numbers are 8, 13, 23, 36, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your feelings will be difficult to hide so speak up. Get things out in the open and deal with the consequences. Chances are you will rid yourself of some deadweight. Plan an evening get-together with friends. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep things to yourself and you will avoid backtracking or dealing with questions you don't want to answer. A love problem will crop up if you talk freely about some of the new friends you've made. Jealousy will cause trouble. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let outsiders waste your time. Focus on home, family and loved ones. Don't agree to unwanted responsibilities. An investment may look good initially but, as time goes by, you'll realize it isn't. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Relax and let things unfold naturally. What appears to be a problem will turn out OK. The less stressed you are, the greater the impression you

will make on someone who counts. Emotional interaction will bring out the best in you. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love is on the rise and travel, excitement and adventure should be on your mind. A little imagination on your part and you can turn a daily routine into something quite exotic. Put your creativity to the test and have fun. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your money into your living quarters. Invest in something that will grow in value. Take action instead of just talking about your future plans. A secret involvement will lead to trouble. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let love get you down. Be aggressive and go after what you want. You are in the driver's seat and can dictate if you take a firm position and don't give in. Use your emotional know-how to get your way. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel, learning and putting yourself on the line will pay off if you can keep the momentum flowing. The more contact you have with people from distant places or different backgrounds, the more you can promote what you do best. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make some serious cash if you invest wisely. Look at property or something that has the potential to grow in value. Love is on the rise. Make plans with someone who can offer you a long relationship and possible gains for both of you. *****

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful what you believe and how you respond. Someone may be trying to keep something from you. Don't give in because you feel you owe this person something or because he or she is family. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your attitude will determine the outcome of any situation you face. Love is on the rise and you will be in demand, so don't let anyone stand in your way. Don't give in to blackmail, ultimatums or manipulation. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may appear to be irresponsible to someone who doesn't understand you and what you are trying to accomplish. Set your mind on completion and surround yourself with individuals who are on the same page as you. ***

Birthday Baby: You have charisma and are popular and generous. You are emotional, passionate and caring. You are original, creative and resilient. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

5		9					6		
	6		7		8			3	
		4					2		
	7		3		5			2	9
				7					
	4	3	9	2	6	5	7		
		8				3			
		5				7			
			1	4	9				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/23 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	5	9	4	3	2	6	7
4	7	9	5	6	2	3	8	1
3	6	2	8	1	7	5	9	4
2	3	1	7	8	4	9	5	6
7	4	8	6	9	5	1	2	3
9	5	6	2	3	1	7	4	8
8	9	3	1	2	6	4	7	5
5	2	4	3	7	8	6	1	9
6	1	7	4	5	9	8	3	2

Difficulty Level ** 7/22

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN Solution: 4 letters

G	T	S	U	R	T	T	E	K	C	E	B	M	C
O	N	O	R	E	H	R	S	R	E	T	A	E	H
L	C	I	P	E	E	O	S	W	O	R	R	A	P
D	S	J	L	A	M	L	A	D	B	C	R	F	E
N	E	M	S	I	E	E	E	O	H	A	R	C	S
E	S	U	H	M	A	S	S	A	C	I	N	E	M
G	R	S	I	A	I	S	N	T	E	A	R	U	A
E	U	I	P	G	A	D	E	N	M	I	R	C	N
L	C	C	N	E	I	R	D	O	E	A	T	S	I
N	N	A	W	S	S	S	R	S	G	I	C	E	M
A	O	R	E	N	R	U	T	E	O	N	S	R	A
C	K	V	E	I	L	E	T	N	I	P	I	U	T
G	A	M	E	D	V	T	S	E	U	Q	I	D	I
S	P	E	L	L	I	O	S	A	T	I	R	E	C
L	A	U	G	H	S	R	M	J	O	N	E	S	S

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Acting, Action, Album, Animatics, Audio, Barbossa, Beckett, Characters, Cinema, Curses, Design, Disc, Epic, Friends, Game, Gold, Hero, Images, Jones, Laughs, Legend, Merchandise, Movie, Music, Novels, Pintel, Quest, Ragetti, Rescue, Ride, Roles, Romance, Sailing, Satire, Seas, Series, Ship, Sparrow, Spell, Swann, Theaters, Theme, Treasure, Trust, Turner, Visuals
Yesterday's Answer: Jukebox
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Classified Ads

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prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the
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noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to
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necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to ap-
plicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the
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Saints get Shockey from Giants for draft picks



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jeremy Shockey caught more passes for more yards as a rookie—the one season when New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton was his offensive coordinator in New York—than any other.

The Giants, meanwhile, proved they didn't need their disgruntled star tight end to pull off one of the most stunning playoff runs in NFL history, winning three postseason contests on the road and then beating previously undefeated New England in the Super Bowl—all while the injured Shockey watched from afar.

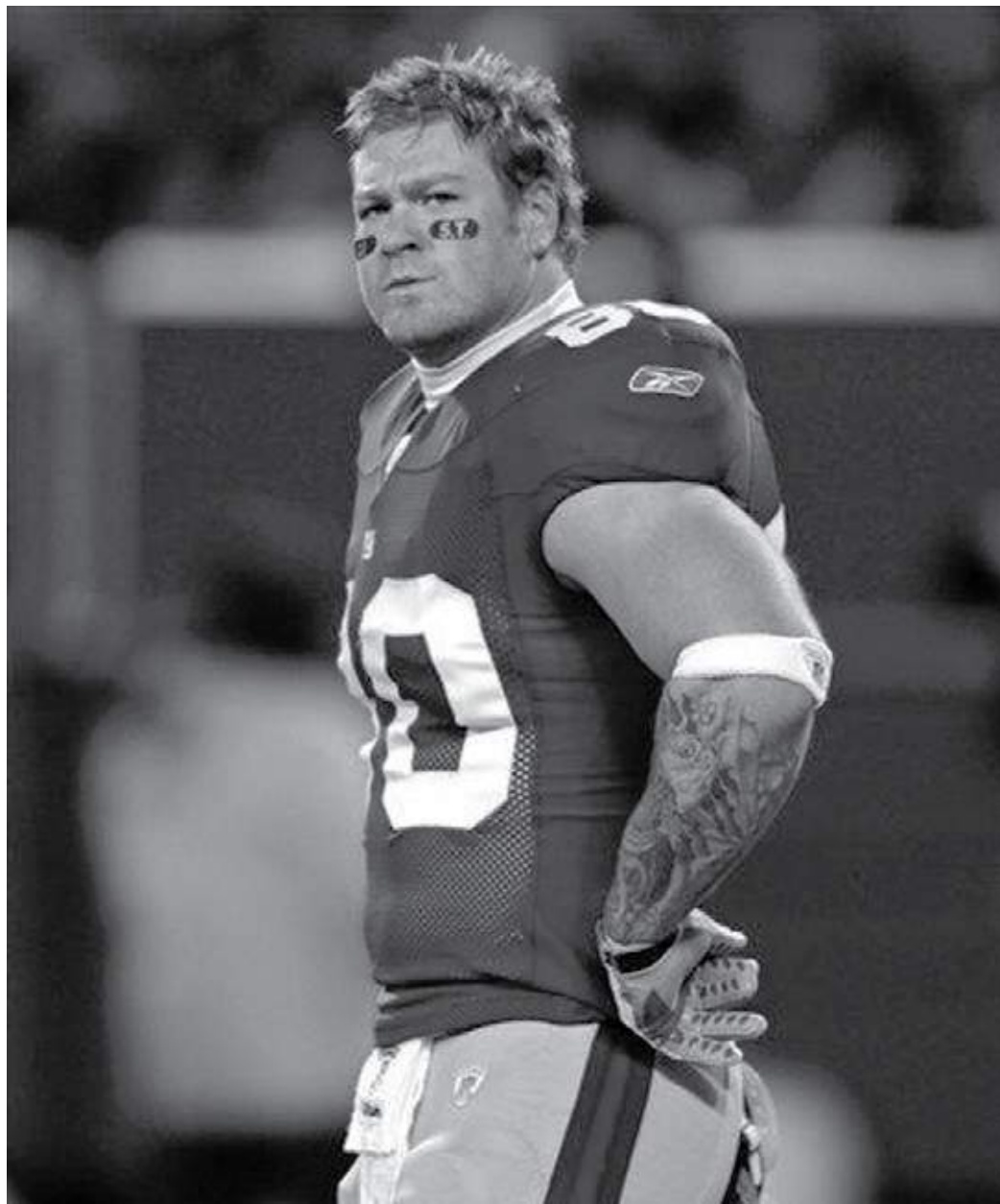
So the Giants sought to do both themselves and Shockey a favor on Monday, cutting ties with the four-time Pro Bowl selection in a deal the Saints had been trying to pull off for months.

The Giants will get second- and fifth-round picks in the 2009 draft in exchange for sending Shockey to the team he wanted to play for most. The trade must be approved by the league and is contingent on Shockey passing a physical.

"I have had a relationship with coach Payton and I appreciate what he has done as a head coach," Shockey said in a statement released by the Saints. "The Saints have a lot of weapons starting with Drew Brees and I look forward to joining my teammates at training camp. This will be a fun year."

Shockey caught 74 passes for 894 yards and was named Rookie of the Year in 2002, his lone season working with Payton, whom he'll be reunited with on the practice field this week.

The Saints report to train-



In this Dec. 16, 2007 file photo, New York Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey waits during a first quarter time out against the Washington Redskins during NFL football action at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

ing camp in Jackson, Miss., on Wednesday, when Shockey will join several other tight ends on New Orleans' roster, including last year's starter, Eric Johnson, along with Billy Miller and

Mark Campbell.

Shockey, who spent six seasons with the Giants, broke his leg against the Washington Redskins on Dec. 16.

He is known for his receiving

ability more than his blocking, and was unhappy even before the injury—he was asked to block in addition to catch. Once hurt, he didn't like the fact that much was made of the Giants winning with

rookie Kevin Boss in his place.

"Jeremy brought great energy to the game every time he stepped on the field," said Giants team president John Mara, son of the late Wellington Mara, a longtime owner of the team. "He had a close relationship with my father from the time we drafted him, and I had a couple of long conversations with Jeremy this spring and summer. From those conversations, it was apparent to me that a fresh start was the best thing for us and for Jeremy."

The Giants, a proven winner without Shockey in the lineup, cut ties with a player who provided plenty of excitement on the field and plenty of distractions off it—once throwing a cup of ice in the stands during a playoff game in San Francisco, criticizing Giants fans for leaving a game early, blaming Giants coach Tom Coughlin's staff for a loss in 2006 and skipping voluntary team workouts in favor of an offseason program run by his agent.

The Giants also unload the remainder of a five-year, \$31.2 million contract extension that Shockey signed in 2005.

Shockey had 371 catches for 4,228 yards and 27 touchdowns with the Giants. He was drafted out of Miami with the 14th overall pick in the 2002 draft.

The Giants' comments about the trade were complimentary of Shockey as if to echo the sentiment: "No hard feelings."

Coughlin called the departing tight end "an outstanding football player who plays the game full speed and plays the game the way it was meant to be played."

"I wish him the best," the coach added.

Schleck has to keep attacking in the Alps to gain time on rivals



CUNEO, Italy (AP)—With Frank Schleck defending his Tour de France lead from five close contenders heading into two tough mountain stages and a time trial still to come, this year's race is the most wide open in years.

The Luxembourg rider knows the best way to keep the yellow jersey is to attack Cadel Evans of Australia and Denis Menchov of Russia in the next two mountain stages, and hope he has a big enough lead before the time trial. "I don't remember a Tour as open as this, with three riders within 10 seconds of each other, and six riders within 50 seconds," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said.

Schleck is seven seconds ahead of Bernhard Kohl of Austria and 0:08 in front of Evans. Menchov is 0:38 back in fourth place, while American rider Christian Vande Velde is :39 behind and Carlos Sastre of Spain trails by :49.

"It's the closest Tour ever isn't it? I think it will probably go all the way to Paris like that," Evans said. "It's great for you

guys watching, but it's a little bit anxious for us."

Schleck will need to increase his lead by Saturday's time trial if he wants to win the race.

"I am not a time-trial specialist, even if having the yellow jersey gives you wings," Schleck said on Monday's rest day. "With the team we have, we can continue to be aggressive."

Schleck took the yellow jersey from Evans by attacking him in the final climb of Sunday's 15th stage up to the Italian ski resort of Prato Nevoso. But it was only a small time gain and, with two punishing stages to come in the Alps, he knows he has to cushion his lead further when Tuesday's 16th stage heads out of Italy and into the French Alps.

It is even tougher and has two climbs beyond classification. The Lombarde ascends for 21.5 kilometers (13.3 miles) and La Bonette-Restefond grinds upward for 25.5 kilometers (15.8 miles). The three climbs in Wednesday's 17th stage—the Galibier, Croix de Fer and L'Alpe d'Huez—are all beyond classification.

"We have a really strong team and that is what could be the key

for us in the Alps," Schleck said.

Although Evans kept his time losses manageable on Sunday, it may have come at a price.

The 31-year-old Australian slumped over his handlebars on the final climb, his body language showing he was in great difficulty while Schleck, Sastre, Menchov and Kohl looked strong.

"He looked as though he was suffering a bit," Schleck said of Evans.

This all makes for exciting racing, and it is a far cry from Lance Armstrong's era where, 2003 aside, the American crushed his rivals by several minutes, not a handful of seconds.

"There is a lot of suspense, which is what organizers dream of," Prudhomme said.

Providing doping stays away long enough, that is, and does not hit one of the top six.

The Italian Olympic Committee performed surprise doping tests on Schleck and his CSC team after Sunday's stage, which had concluded in the Italian ski resort of Prato Nevoso.

As many as six riders were tested, CONI confirmed Monday without providing further details.

The French anti-doping agen-

cy is controlling drug testing at this year's Tour. CONI, which oversees doping within Italy, indicated that Sunday's tests were part of a pre-race agreement with the French authorities.

Three cyclists have been ejected from this year's Tour for using the banned blood-booster EPO: Spanish riders Moises Duenas Nevado and Manuel Beltran and Riccardo Ricco of Italy, who won two stages.

Pierre Bordry, the head of the French anti-doping agency (AFLD), has seen his Chateaufort lab swamped by testing. He told The Associated Press by telephone Monday that he is only now testing the results from a week ago.

That means results from the ninth stage to Bagnères-de-Bigorre which was won by Ricco, and the 10th stage up the Hautacam pass which was won by Ricco's Saunier Duval teammate, Leonardo Piepoli, are still to come.

Piepoli has since been sacked by his team for "violation of the team's ethical code." Bordry said Piepoli's blood parameters were suspicious when the AFLD carried out pre-Tour tests on July 3 and 4.

Reports: Urlacher agrees to extension through 2012

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—The Chicago Bears and linebacker Brian Urlacher agreed to a contract extension Monday through the 2012 season, according to published reports.

The Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times reported that the extension is worth \$18 million, including a \$6 million signing bonus. The Bears declined to confirm the deal.

Players were scheduled to report to training camp at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais on Tuesday. The Bears are still looking to sign top draft choice Chris Williams, an offensive tackle.

Urlacher, entering his ninth season, signed a nine-year, \$57 million contract in 2003 that would have expired after 2011.

Last season, Urlacher played with an arthritic back condition and also had minor offseason neck surgery. Urlacher, 30, has been selected for the Pro Bowl six times and has 15 career interceptions and 37 1/2 sacks.

The Giants still have five tight ends, including Boss, who started the last six games of last season. The others are rookie Eric Butler, Jerome Collins, Darcy Johnson and Michael Matthews.

"We have five young kids who are all vying for the position," Coughlin said. "The tight end position will be a very competitive position in training camp."

The Saints have been seeking a tight end who is a downfield threat. Eric Johnson, who started 12 games for the Saints last season, caught 48 passes for 378 yards and two touchdowns.

"Jeremy is a player that we are excited to have on our roster. He is someone I am familiar with as a player," Payton said. "He brings a skill set to the position that I feel will be a tremendous benefit to our offense."

The Saints' offense has been among the best in the NFL during Payton's first two seasons as coach, with Brees eclipsing 4,000 yards passing in each of them.

The hope in New Orleans is that Shockey's addition as a receiving threat, when combined with receiver Marques Colston and Reggie Bush coming out of the backfield or lining up in the slot, will give Brees the options he needs to move the ball, no matter what defenses attempt.

Shockey's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, called last season a difficult one for his client, who was looking for a change of scenery.

"He's been one of the most successful tight ends in NFL history, but now I think he's going to be more prolific in the Saints' offense," Rosenhaus said. "I don't think Jeremy could ask for a better situation."

Lester leads Red Sox to 4-0 win over Mariners



SEATTLE

(AP)—Local favorite Jon Lester carried a shutout into the eighth inning, struggling Jason Varitek rewarded his manager's faith with a two-run homer and the road-weary Boston Red Sox beat the Seattle Mariners 4-0 Monday night.

Lester, who was born in nearby Tacoma and starred at that city's Belarmine Prep high school, allowed eight hits in 7 1-3 innings—the final one a hard one-hopper off his right shin. He left the game with a trainer and the bases loaded but did not appear injured while watching from the bench as Jonathan Papelbon got Raul Ibanez to ground into a double play.

Papelbon finished the ninth for his 29th save in 33 chances in Boston's major league-best 11th shutout.

It was Lester's fifth start without allowing a run this season, including his no-hitter May 19 against Kansas City.

Rookie Jed Lowrie hit a two-run single in the eighth and Manny Ramirez had three singles to extend his hitting streak to 10 games.

Boston won for just the third time in 13 road games to remain 1 1/2 games behind first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Seattle lost for the ninth time in 12 games to tie its season-low of 23 games under .500 (38-61).

Varitek, hitting .114 in his last 26 games, homered off Jarrod Washburn (4-9) in the fifth.

Rays 4, Athletics 0

At St. Petersburg, Scott Kazmir and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the struggling Oakland Athletics.

Rookie Evan Longoria homered for the third consecutive game and drove in two runs, helping the AL East leaders win for the third time in four days following a season-worst seven-game losing streak.

The A's have lost six straight, scoring nine runs during the slide.

Kazmir walked four and struck out nine in seven innings.

Yankees 12, Twins 4

At New York, Alex Rodriguez had a two-run homer and RBI single to help New York to its eighth straight home win.

Robinson Cano and Derek Jeter homered for the Yankees, and Johnny Damon was activated from the disabled list and went 1-for-4 as the designated hitter.

Alexi Casilla had three hits for Minnesota, but the second baseman's throwing error led to three unearned runs in New York's four-run second.

Orioles 8, Blue Jays 3

At Baltimore, Adam Jones homered in the third, then got a key infield single in a three-run fifth for Baltimore.

Jones hit a two-run homer and scored twice. He has reached base safely in 20 straight games, going 29-for-78 (.372) with 15 RBIs.

Ramon Hernandez homered for the Orioles, who climbed out of last place in the AL East ahead of Toronto.

Indians 5, Angels 2

At Anaheim, California, Andy Marte, Casey Blake and Jhonny Peralta homered for Cleveland as it snapped Los Angeles' five-game winning streak.

Paul Byrd (4-10) allowed a run and nine hits over 5 1-3 innings for his first victory since June 6. He was 0-5 with a 7.76 ERA in his previous six starts.

Masa Kobayashi struck out the side in the ninth for his sixth save.

The Angels, coming off a three-game sweep of defending World Series champion Boston, still own the baseball's best record (60-39) and hold a nine-game lead over Oakland in the AL West.

Ervin Santana (11-4) was charged with four runs—three earned—and seven hits over seven innings, striking out eight.

In the fourth inning, Marte homered to give Cleveland a 2-1 lead. Blake made it 4-1 in the fifth and Peralta added a homer in the eighth.

David Dellucci and Jeff Mathis

Brewers 6, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Bill Hall homered leading off the top of the 10th inning, helping the Milwaukee Brewers beat the St. Louis Cardinals after squandering a ninth-inning lead.

Milwaukee is 4-0 on its seven-game trip and a National League-best 35-19 since May 20.

Solomon Torres (5-2), who gave up the tying run in the ninth, also pitched the 10th.

The Brewers scored two more runs in the 10th off Ryan Franklin (3-3) on a throwing error by second baseman Aaron Miles and an RBI single J.J. Hardy, who went 4-for-6. Franklin allowed three runs—two earned—on four hits in 1 1-3 innings.

Braves 4, Marlins 0

At Miami, rookie Jorge Campillo pitched seven innings and two relievers completed a two-hitter for Atlanta to beat Florida.

Campillo (5-4) allowed both hits and lowered his ERA to 2.83.

against Chicago.

Harden, in his second start for Chicago after a trade with Oakland, allowed one hit in seven innings—Alex Romero's first major league home run to lead off the sixth. Harden (0-1) went seven innings, striking out 10 and walking two in the Cubs' fourth loss in five games.

Arizona made it 2-0 in the eighth on Stephen Drew's RBI triple.

Micah Owings pitched a scoreless eighth and Chad Qualls worked the ninth for his second save in eight tries.

Pirates 9, Astros 3

At Houston, Freddy Sanchez hit a three-run, inside-the-park homer to cap a seven-run ninth inning, and Pittsburgh snapped a five-game losing streak.

Jason Bay and Adam LaRoche also homered in the inning off closer Jose Valverde, who came in with the Astros leading 3-2.

Sanchez's shot off Tim Lincecum was Pittsburgh's first inside-the-park home run in 13 months.



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester throws in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners Monday, July 21, 2008, at Safeco Field in Seattle.

drove in runs for the Angels.

Rangers 6, White Sox 1

At Chicago, Josh Hamilton hit a three-run homer and Hank Blalock added a two-run shot to power Texas.

Hamilton hit his 22nd homer in the third off Javier Vazquez, as Chicago lost its third straight, all at home.

Blalock added his fourth homer in the eighth.

Chicago's Carlos Quentin led off the fourth with his 24th homer, and Vazquez (7-8) struck out 10 and gave up three runs in seven innings.

Tigers 19, Royals 4

At Kansas City, Missouri, Miguel Cabrera had five hits and six RBIs and Matt Joyce added four hits and five RBIs for Detroit.

Joyce hit a three-run homer in the third and had two singles in the Tigers' 10-run eighth, which also included a three-run homer by Gary Sheffield. Cabrera singled and doubled and drove in two runs in the eighth when the Tigers sent 15 men to the plate. Royals reserve infielder Tony Pena Jr. pitched a perfect ninth, including striking out Ivan Rodriguez. He was the first Royals position player to pitch in a game since Shane Halter on July 19, 1998, at Seattle.

Mark Teixeira and Mark Kotsay both had two hits, drove in a run and scored once.

Padres 6, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, Kevin Kouzmanoff's two-run double completed San Diego's ninth-inning comeback off closer Francisco Cordero, and the Padres snapped their six-game losing streak.

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 606th homer, a two-run shot that allowed Cincinnati to take a 4-3 lead into the ninth. Cordero (4-3) then gave up a lead for the second time in his last three appearances.

Brian Giles tied it with a run-scoring groundout, and Kouzmanoff lined a double to right for a 6-4 lead. Cordero retired only two of seven batters.

The Padres had been 0-53 when trailing after eight innings.

Diamondbacks 2, Cubs 0

At Phoenix, Randy Johnson improved to 13-0 in 14 career starts against Chicago, outdueling Rich Harden.

Johnson (7-7), winning his third straight after six consecutive losses, allowed two hits, struck out four and walked one in seven innings for his 291st victory.

The 44-year-old left-hander entered the game with a 1.98 career ERA

Valverde (4-3) had converted 23 of his last 25 save opportunities before Bay hit the tying solo homer, his 20th.

Tyler Yates (4-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for Pittsburgh.

Dodgers 16, Rockies 10

At Denver, James Loney drove in five runs, including a triple with the bases loaded, and Matt Kemp had two doubles as part of Los Angeles' eight-run first inning.

The Dodgers set season highs in runs, hits (18) and hits in an inning (seven) as they won for the fourth time in five games to remain tied with Arizona for first place in the NL West.

Kip Wells (1-2), reinstated from the 60-day disabled list before the game, got just one out before being relieved in the first. It was his first start since the Rockies' season opener.

The Dodgers began the game with five straight hits and sent 12 batters to the plate in the inning.

Jeff Kent, Russell Martin and Loney all had three hits.

Brian Falkenberg (2-2) worked 1 1-3 innings in relief for the win.

Matt Holliday had three hits, including his 17th homer, and Troy Tulowitzki had a career-high five hits in his first game back since coming off the 15-day disabled list Monday.

Bush gives US Olympians a rousing send-off



WASHINGTON (AP)—

President Bush gave U.S. Olympians a rousing White House send-off to next month's games in Beijing, urging them Monday to "compete swifter, higher and stronger" but also be mindful they will be "ambassadors of liberty" to the people of China and elsewhere.

Bush is attending the opening ceremonies and the first few days of the Aug. 8-24 games. Standing in the Rose Garden with about two dozen athletes who will compete in the Beijing Olympics and the corresponding Paralympics there in September, Bush said he is "fired up" to watch some of the competition.

"I can't wait to salute our athletes, and I can't wait to share in the joy of your triumphs," he said.

Human rights groups had urged Bush to boycott the opening ceremonies to oppose China's crackdown on protesters in Tibet. The Bush administration argues that the Olympics are a sporting event not to be politicized, and that the president will raise human and religious rights with Chinese officials in the appropriate context.

But while talking to the athletes about their responsibilities in Beijing, Bush had a subtle message for China itself.

"You will convey our nation's most cherished values," the president said. "As ambassadors of liberty, you will represent America's love for freedom and our regard for human rights and human dignity ... to other athletes and to the people of China."

Bush beamed with pride at Team USA.

"We send you off with congratulations on the success you have already achieved, and on the accomplishments we know will be yours in Beijing," he said. "We're looking forward to rooting for you in Beijing."

The president and his wife, Laura, also held a White House dinner in the evening to honor current and previous U.S. Olympians.

"You're not going to be alone in Beijing," Bush said as he toasted the athletes. "Because you're going to be accompanied by the hopes and pride of millions of Americans."

Bush said the Olympics are "an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of the human spirit."

He cited the 1972 Olympics when people gathered in Munich to honor the 11 Israeli athletes who were killed by Palestinian gunmen and the 2002 games in Salt Lake City when an American flag recovered from the World Trade Center "displayed to the world the resolve and resilience of our country."

He then wished the athletes luck, endurance and victory.

Among those attending alongside officials from the Bush administration and the U.S. Olympic Committee was track and field gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

The menu was not a low-cal affair, with pea soup with duck pastrami, cheese puffs, crispy black sea bass, butter beans, salad and a dessert called the "Olympic Torch," a dark chocolate tart with raspberries and a blown-sugar Olympic flame.

The bluegrass band Seldom Scene was the chosen entertainment.

Casino draws first blood, beats Finance/Shipping

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Casino Titans beat Finance/Shipping, 91-71, in Game 1 of the 7th Annual

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last Thursday at the staff housing basketball court.

Both teams were evenly matched from the onset as the score was tied 16-16 and 33-33 after the first two quarters of play.

Finance/Shipping made their move in the third and eventually took a modest 60-57 spread heading into the fourth and final quarter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Casino Titans beat Finance/Shipping, 91-71, in Game 1 of the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last Thursday at the staff housing basketball court.

Casino Titans then began to flex its muscles in the payoff pe-

riod, led by 6'3" rookie center Ringo Reyes and sharpshoot-

ers Dave "Pekto" Ramirez and Elias Camero.

Reyes dominated the inside, while Ramirez and Camera shredded the net from afar by combining for four 3-pointers in the final 10 minutes, as Casino Titans pulled away and won the game with plenty to spare.

Reyes led all scorers with 26 points, while Ramirez was not far behind in production with 25 markers of his own. Camero also chipped in 16 points in the win.

Mike Torregosa and Dennis Espiritu paced Finance/Shipping in the victory with 24 and 15 points, respectively.

In the opener, the Veterans team beat the Rookies/Sopho-

chipped in 13 apiece in the loss.

While power outage didn't interrupt Tuesday's continuation of Game 3, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. spoiled the awards ceremony after it as organizers were about to present the three-foot high Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League championship trophy to Ol'Aces when the lights again unexpectedly went out at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Ol'Aces 124 – Pelisamen 49, Cruz 30, Lizama 25, L. Iguel 10, Rabauliman 7, Iginoef 5, Diaz 2.

Advance X-Terminators 110 – Lim 30, Artates 20, Ruloked 13, Estolas 13, Barrios 9, Fitial 7, Dayrit 6, Gamboa 4, Capalad 4.

Scoring by quarters: 32-30, 60-55, 94-78, 124-110.

Referees: Arnold Mesa, Dado Vistal, and Jess Pabula.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

The 5'8" reed-thin swingman capped his 103-point performance in the first two games by scoring 49 markers in the third and final bout, including nine points in the final 3:30.

Before the restart for Game 3, Pelisamen was seen exchanging pleasantries with Deocares and somewhat apologized for almost single-handedly bringing Ol'Aces to the cusp of the championship podium.

To which Deocares jokingly responded by telling Pelisamen that he will not recruit him anymore to play for his teams.

Already shorthanded with the absence of 6'1" Edsel Mendoza due to an injury, Advance X-Terminators suffered yet another blow when leading scorer

Jonathan Lim was nowhere to be seen in the Game 3 reset.

That forced Deocares to "start" a less stellar five with Joy Dayrit and J.R. Barrios joining regulars Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr., Kelvin Fitial, and Jon Artates on the floor against Ol'Aces' Pelisamen, Jericho Cruz, Jack Lizama, Ed Diaz, and Luis Iguel.

To add to Advance X-Terminators' woes Estolas was less than 100 percent after a bad fall in the first installment of Game 3 Thursday hurt his ankle.

The historic comeback Deocares and Advance X-Terminators started on the wrong foot with Fitial badly missing on two free throws, while Pelisamen scored on an easy layup on the other end to up their lead to 15 points.

Artates tried his best to keep the Bug Busters' hopes alive by scoring four quick points to trim the lead to 11 points, 111-100,

but Barrios' contested 3-pointer miss was answered by four free throws by Pelisamen.

And to make matters worse, Advance X-Terminators' strategy of fouling to stop the clock resulted in their players getting disqualified because of five fouls. One by one, Dayrit, Artates, and Joelan Mendoza hit the showers even before the game concluded.

In the end, Pelisamen and Ol'Aces made just the right number of free throws and stood their ground on defense to win the championship running away.

Pelisamen, who went on to bag the open division MVP, led all scorers with the aforementioned 49 points, while Cruz and Lizama added 30 and 25 points in the win.

Artates went on to score 20 points, six after the restart, to support Lim's 30 points. Gyles Ruloked, who already fouled out Thursday, and the hobbling Estolas

KENSUKE

From Page 28

has been able to break the past 15 years. He also broke another CNMI age group record that was set by Keoni Ichihara in 1996 just two months ago," he said.

Coach Kimura said in addition to resetting the 1500m freestyle, Kimura's 800m lap in the 1500m freestyle was faster than CNMI 800m freestyle age group record set by Joshua

Taitano in 1994.

"If he will try to swim the 800m freestyle, he will be able to break it for certain. We are looking forward to seeing another of his record-breaking shows again," he said.

The younger Kimura, who now has nine age group records to his name, said breaking the 1500m freestyle record wouldn't have been possible without the help of teammates, family, and friends.

"I want to say thank you to my teammates here and in Guam

who have been practicing so hard with me everyday. I would also like thank to my family. A lot of Tsunami Saipan parents also encourage and support me. A special thank you also go out to Tsunami Guam head coach Toshi Iijima," he said.

Kimura recently returned from three weeks of hard training in Guam. He flew to the U.S. territory last month to join Tsunami Guam practices for its swimmers who will be taking part in the 2008 Junior Olym-

pics in Tokyo, Japan.

Kimura and the Tsunami Guam Junior Olympic team practiced two times a day at both the Leo Palace Resort and Onward Beach Resort swimming pools, which contributed immensely to his performance in the 2008 SSC Summer Classic.

Aside from Kensuke, 13 other members of Tsunami Saipan took part in the weekend meet organized by the Saipan Swim Club.

Rezne Wong, Shin Kimura, Marystar Welch, Kaito Yanai, Daisuke Fitial, Ashley and Salofi Welch, Daniel Camacho, Thea Minor, Angel de Jesus, Angel Marie Tan, Edward Minami, and Hiroto Yanai competed at the Marpi pool and their swims will be published in the *Saipan Tribune* in the coming days.

BSML

From Page 28

crossing in the 2008 BSML season with 26 runs, followed by Korean Dreams' Justin Reyes

with 24.

In RBIs, D-9ers' John Tenorio beat out Manny Sablan after winding up with 17 as against the Rock Steady catcher's 15.

In ERA, Rock Steady's 1-2 punch of Ton Palacios and

Nick San Nicolas paced the category with 0.45 and 0.81, respectively. The two were followed by Rangers teammates Pete Tenorio (1.50) and Mel Sakisat (1.91).

CNMI

From Page 28

Chinese-Taipei defeated upstart Thailand, 5-1, while the hosts routed China, 20-1. The other Asia Pool result saw South Korea blank India, 13-0.

After 3-0 Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong, South Korea is at 2-1, while Thailand is at 1-2. India and China both sport 0-3 win-loss records.

Making up the CNMI Major League All-Stars for the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament are Jeremy Rabauliman, Chris Mizer, A.J. Lizama, Ricky Joe Riungel, A.J. Castro, Jared Sablan, Jun Rabauliman, Raymond Saralu, A.J. Lizama, Frankie Camacho, Jonah Flores, Jerome Reyes, Keene Deleon Guerrero, Jeremy Lizama, and Poland Masaharu

Randall Aguon serves as manager and helping him in the dugout are head coach El-

mer Sablan and assistant coach Manny Sablan.

Saipan's best 9-12-year-old ballplayers booked a ticket to the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament after beating Rota, 11-1, last June 12 at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo.

The CNMI faced New Zealand yesterday but results were still not available as of press time. It wraps up its elimination round assignment against Indonesia today.

more squad, 107-91, paced by the 26 points of 2006 MVP Noel Sabordo.

First Game

Veterans 107 – Sabordo 26, Mabansag 16, Flores 12, Ventulan 10, Agader 10, Apostol, 10, Pavino 7, Castillo 6, Real 4, Ancheta 4.

Rookies/Sophomores 91 – Manalo 22, Fernandez 16, Jo. Garcia 11, J.P. Garcia 11, Miranda 7, Cajayon 6, Marquez 5, Manglona 5, Sablan 5.

Scoring by quarters: 28-

31,66-51,89-73,107-91.

Referees: Don Sarmiento and Doy Ligan.

Second Game

Casino Titans 91 – Ringo-26, Ramirez 25, Camero 16, Advincula 13, Awa 8, Bernal 2, Que 1.

Finance/Shipping 71 – Torregosa 24m Espiritu 15, Rosales 13, Gerogalin 7, Bustillos 6, Piol 4, Malimban 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 33-33, 57-60, 91-71,

Referees: Bogs Pascua, Doy Ligan, and Mario Morilla.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	58	40	.592	—
Boston	58	43	.574	1 1/2
New York	54	45	.545	4 1/2
Baltimore	48	50	.490	10
Toronto	48	51	.485	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	55	43	.561	—
Minnesota	55	44	.556	1/2
Detroit	50	49	.505	5 1/2
Kansas City	45	55	.450	11
Cleveland	44	54	.449	11

West Division

Los Angeles	60	39	.606	—
Texas	52	48	.520	8 1/2
Oakland	51	48	.515	9
Seattle	38	61	.384	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	53	46	.535	—
Philadelphia	53	46	.535	—
Florida	52	47	.525	1
Atlanta	47	52	.475	6
Washington	38	61	.384	15

Central Division

Chicago	58	41	.586	—
Milwaukee	56	43	.566	2
St. Louis	57	44	.564	2
Cincinnati	48	53	.475	11
Houston	46	53	.465	12
Pittsburgh	45	54	.455	13

West Division

Arizona	49	50	.495	—
Los Angeles	49	50	.495	—
Colorado	43	58	.426	7
San Francisco	40	58	.408	8 1/2
San Diego	38	62	.380	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 12, Minnesota 4
Baltimore 8, Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 4, Oakland 0
Detroit 19, Kansas City 4
Texas 6, Chicago White Sox 1
Cleveland 5, L.A. Angels 2
Boston 4, Seattle 0
Milwaukee 6, St. Louis 3, 10 innings
Atlanta 4, Florida 0
San Diego 6, Cincinnati 4
Pittsburgh 9, Houston 3
L.A. Dodgers 16, Colorado 10
Arizona 2, Chicago Cubs 0?

TOUR DE FRANCE STANDINGS

CUNEI, Italy (AP)—Overall standings Monday, a rest day at the Tour de France after 15 stages:

1. Frank Schleck, Luxembourg, Team CSC Saxo Bank, 63 hours, 57 minutes, 21 seconds.
2. Bernhard Kohl, Austria, Gerolsteiner, 7 seconds behind.
3. Cadel Evans, Australia, Silence-Lotto, :08.
4. Denis Menchov, Russia, Rabobank, :38.
5. Christian Vande Velde, United States, Garmin Chipotle, :39.
6. Carlos Sastre, Spain, Team CSC Saxo

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML LEADERS (Final)

Batting	AB	H	AVG.
John Reyes (Korean Dreams)	59	27	.457
Many Sablan (Rock Steady)	46	20	.434
Tyrone Omar (Rock Steady)	42	18	.428
Kim Jae Young (Komoro)	42	18	.428
Mike Pangelinan (Falcons)	45	19	.422
Toi Celis (Rock Steady)	53	22	.415
Ton Camacho (D9ers)	41	17	.414
Iguel Jess (Rangers)	39	16	.410
Byron Kaipat (Rock Steady)	48	19	.395
Dane Lizama (Rock Steady)	54	21	.388

Doubles: Manny Sablan (5), Pangelinan Ton, Celis Toi, Yang Jun Hyuk (four each).
Triples: Benwachi Taisacan, Jason M. Reyes, (4 each), Reyes John, Nick San Nicolas (three each).
Runs: Tyrone Omar (26), Reyes Justin (24).
RBI: John Tenorio (17), Manny Sablan (15).
Homeruns: Benwachi Taisacan, Pangelinan Mike (two each)
Strikeouts: Kim Jae Young (114), Mendiola Shane (96)

Earned Run Average

	Inn	Hit	ER	ERA
Ton Palacios (Rock Steady)	20	7	1	0.45
Nick San Nicolas (Rock Steady)	22	7	1	0.81
Tenorio Pete (Rangers)	30	21	5	1.50
Mel Sakisat (Rangers)	47	60	10	1.91

LITTLE LEAGUE STANDINGS

Asia		
Chinese Taipei	3	0
Hong Kong	3	0
Korea	2	1
Thailand	1	2
China	0	3
India	0	3
Pacific		
Guam	3	0
Indonesia	2	1
Australia	2	1
CNMI	1	2
New Zealand	1	2
Philippines	0	3

2008 SSC Summer Classic

Photos BY DAN KIMBALL



Far left, Selyna Leon Guerrero on the block in last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Left, Sarah Johnson flies toward the finish line in the butterfly event of last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Below, Victoria Chentsova races for home in last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.

Right, Jesse Leon Guerrero in the butterfly event of last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Far right, Emma Martinsen competes in the backstroke of last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic



Far left, Lester Lapuz competes in the breaststroke during last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Left, Andrew Kimball en route to a fast 800m time in last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Michael Moran nears the turn in the freestyle event of last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Junior Pamaran eyes the finish in last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Grace Kimball beams as she learns she has broken the 100m freestyle age group record during last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Casino draws first blood, beats Finance/Shipping

Casino Titans beat Finance/Shipping, 91-71, in Game 1 of the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last Thursday at the staff housing basketball court.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Saints get Shockey from Giants for draft picks

Jeremy Shockey caught more passes for more yards as a rookie—the one season when New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton was his offensive coordinator in New York—than any other.

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28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces finally hoist FMI cage crown

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Power outage this time didn't stop Ol'Aces from taking home the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League championship trophy after finally completing its Game 3 win against Advance X-Terminators, 124-110, last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The final game of the best-of-three series between the Oleai team and the pennant champions was originally played last Thursday. However, an unexpected power outage at 10:20pm stalled Ol'Aces' march to the championship, as the game was postponed with 3:30 left in the contest and Ol'Aces ahead by 13 points, 109-96.



When play resumed last night, Advance X-Terminators head coach Marvin Deocares told his boys that they can make history by overhauling the baker's dozen lead with that much left in the game clock.

Instead, they were relegated to the annals of local basketball teams that peaked in the eliminations only to sputter when the games mattered the most.

And they only have Ol'Aces scoring machine Freddie Pelisamen to blame for making the championship his personal showcase.

See OL'ACES on Page 26



Five of Ol'Aces players pose with the championship trophy after the awards ceremony of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League was again interrupted by another power outage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. From left, Ed Diaz, Jack Lizama, Fred Pelisamen, Marvin Rabaultman, and Jericho Cruz.

MARK RABAGO

CNMI loses to Guam, 1-3

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI Major League All-Stars will not be playing in the title game of the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament after succumbing to their second straight loss against Guam, 1-3, last Monday at the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

Guam, represented in the tournament at the former Crown Colony by Southern Little League, was led in the victory by sluggers Nick Cruz and Nick Hernandez and pitcher Parish Reyes.

According to the *Pacific Daily News*, Cruz hit a two-run homerun, while Hernandez went 2-for-4 with a triple and a run scored. Reyes, for his part, recorded eight strikeouts, while pitching only 79 pitches over the course of six innings.

Other results from Day 3 of the Pacific Pool saw Indonesia nip Philippines, 8-7; and Australia beat New Zealand, 9-4.

With the loss, the CNMI dropped to 1-2 in the team standings in the division. Guam is lording it over in the Pacific Pool with a 3-0 win-loss card, followed by 2-1 teams Australia and Indonesia. The Philippines remained the only winless team in the pool with a 0-3 mark.

Over in the Asia Pool, defending champion Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong are on a collision course for the pool finale by each streaking to their third win in as many outings.

See CNMI on Page 26

Kensuke breaks yet another age group record

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan 12-year-old wunderkind, Kensuke Kimura, broke yet another CNMI age group record last weekend during the 2008 SSC Summer Classic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Kimura broke the age group record in the 1500m freestyle by finishing the long course in 19:43.27, obliterating the 21:00.03 set by Robert Jordan back in 1993.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, who also is Kensuke's father, was very proud of the accomplishment.

"Kensuke broke an old record that no one

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura broke Robert Jordan's long-standing 1500m freestyle age group record by swimming it in 19:43.27 in last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic.

BSML names statistical leaders

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Komoro's Kim Jae Young and Korean Dreams' John M. Reyes finished what they started and were named the strikeout and batting kings, respectively, of the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

In a list submitted by BSML statistician Joe Lizma, Kim recorded the most strikeouts in the 2008 season of the BSML with 114, followed by Korean Dreams' Shane Mendiola's 96.

Reyes, for his part, went 27-for-59 for the season to finish with a .457 batting average.

Rock Steady's Manny Sablan, Tyrone Omar, Kim, and Falcons' Mike Pangelinan complete the Top 5 in batting with averages of .434, .428, .428, and .422, respectively.



Reyes



Kim

Pangelinan and Ford Rangers' Benwachi Taisacan were also named the homerun champs of the 2008 BSML season after the duo recorded two apiece.

In triples, Taisacan and Korean Dreams' Jason Reyes had four each, followed by John Reyes and Rock Steady's Nick

San Nicolas with three apiece.

In doubles, Manny Sablan was without peer with five, while O'Conner Tigers' Ton Pangelinan, Rock Steady's Toi Celis, and Komoro's Jang Ju Hyuk finished with four apiece.

Omar had the most plate-

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